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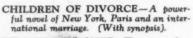
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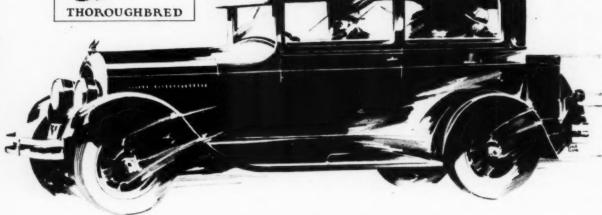
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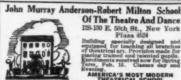
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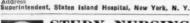
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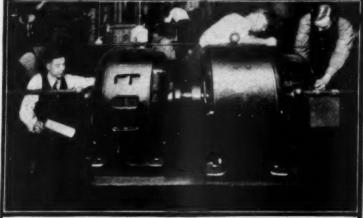
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WHAT I THINK OF By Judge PELMANISM - Ben B. Lindsey

PELMANISM is a big, vital, significant contribution to the mental life of America. I have the deep conviction that it is going to strike at the very roots of individual failure, for I see in it a new power, a great driving force.

I first heard of Pelmanism while in England on war work. Sooner or later almost every conversation touched on it, for the movement seemed to have the sweep of a religious conviction. Men and women of every class and circumstance were acclaiming it as a new departure in mental training that gave promise of ending that preventable inefficiency which acts as a brake on human progress. Even in France I did not escape the word, for thousands of officers and men were Pelmanizing in order to fit themselves for return to civil life.

When I learned that Pelmanism had been brought to America, by Americans for Americans, I was among the first to enroll. My reasons were two: first, because I have always felt that every mind needed regular, systematic and scientific exercise, and, secondly, because I wanted to find out if Pelmanism was the thing that I could recommend to the hundreds who continually ask my advice in relation to their lives, problems and ambitions.

Failure is a sad word in any language, but it is peculiarly tragic here in America, where institutions and resources join to put success within the reach of every individual. In the twenty years that I have sat on the bench of the Juvenile Court of Denver, almost every variety of human failure has passed before me in melancholy procession. By failure I do not mean the merely criminal mistakes of the individual but the faults of training that keep a life from full development and complete expression.

It is to these needs and these lacks that Pelmanism comes as an answer. The "twelve little gray books" are a remarkable achievement. Not only do they contain the discoveries that science knows about the mind and its workings, but the treatment is so simple that the truths may be grasped by anyone of average education.

In plain words, what Pelmanism has done is to take psychology out of the college and put it into harness for the day's work. It lifts great, helpful truths out of the back water and plants them in the living stream.

As a matter of fact, Pelmanism ought to be the beginning of education instead of a remedy for its faults. First of all, it teaches the science of self-realization; it



JUDGE BEN B. LINDSEY

Judge Ben B. Lindsey is known throughout the whole civilized world for his work in the Juvenile Court of Denver. He says,

"The human mind is not an automatic device. It will not 'take care of itself'. Will power, originality, decision, resourcefulness, imagination, initiative, courage—these things are not gifts, but results. Every one of these qualities can be developed by effort, just as muscles can be developed by exercise."

makes the student discover himself; it acquaints him with his sleeping powers and shows him how to develop them. The method is exercise, not of the haphazard sort, but a steady, increasing kind that brings each hidden power to full strength without strain or break.

The human mind is not an automatic device. It will not "take care of itself." Will power, originality, decision, resource-fulness, imagination, initiative courage—these things are not gifts, but results. Every one of these qualities can be developed by effort just as muscles can be developed by exercise. I do not mean by this that the individual can add to the brains that God gave him, but he can learn to make use of the brains that he has instead of letting them fall into flabbiness through disuse.

Other methods and systems that I have examined, while realizing the value of mental exercise, have made the mistake of limiting their efforts to the development of some single sense. What Pelmanism does is to consider the mind as a whole and treat it as a whole. It goes in for mental team play, training the mind as a unity.

Its big value, however, is the instructional note. Each lesson is accompanied by a work sheet that is really a progress sheet. The student goes forward under a teacher in the sense that he is followed through from first to last, helped, guided and encouraged at every turn by conscientious experts.

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(Signed) BEN B. LINDSEY.

Note: As Judge Lindsey has pointed out, Pelmanism is neither an experiment nor a theory. For almost a quarter of a century it has been showing men and women how to lead happy, successful, well-rounded lives. 550,000 Pelmanists in every country on the globe are the guarantee of what Pelman training can do for you.

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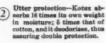
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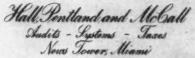
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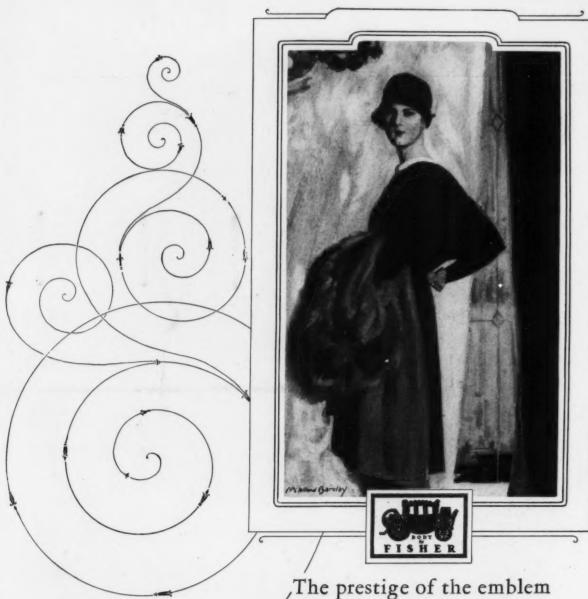
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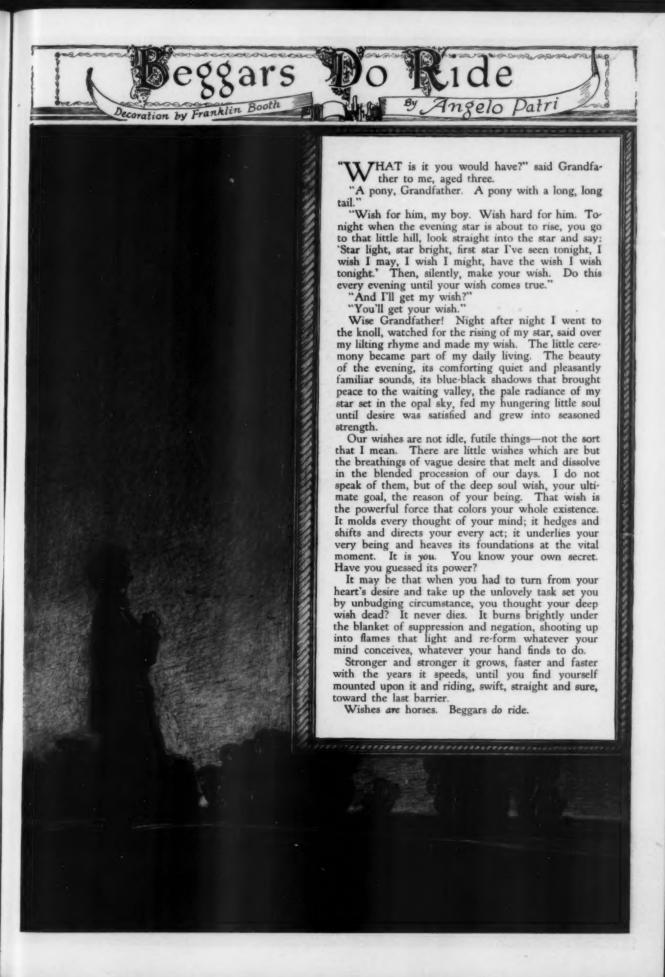


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The right way is the natural way. It starts with soap and water, with pores kept clean and open so as to naturally perform their functions.

Do that in the right way, with the right kind of soap, and you will be surprised at the results that come. Leading skin specialists have learned that proper cleansing is probably responsible for more youthful skins beyond the allotted time than any other method known. Try this for a week and note the result.

The rule and how to follow it

Wash your face gently with soothing Palmolive Soap, massaging the lather softly into the skin. Rinse thoroughly, first with warm water, then with cold. If your skin is inclined to be dry, apply a touch of good cold cream—that is all. Do this regularly, and particularly in the

evening. Use powder and rouge if you wish. But never leave them on over night. They clog the pores, often enlarge them. Blackheads and disfigurements often follow. They must be washed away.

Avoid this mistake

Do not use ordinary soaps in the treatment given above. Do not think any green soap, or one represented as of olive and palm oils, is the same as Palmolive.

And it costs but 10c the cake! So little that millions let it do for their bodies what it does for their faces. Obtain a cake today. Then note what an amazing difference one week makes.

Soap from trees!

The only oils in Palmolive Soap are the soothing beauty oils from the olive tree, the African palm, and the coconut palm—and no other fats whatsoever. That is why Palmolive Soap is the natural color that it is—for palm and olive oils, nothing else, give Palmolive its natural green color.

The only secret to Palmolive is its exclusive blend—and that is one of the world's priceless beauty secrets.



Palmolive Soap is untouched by human hands until you break the wrapper—it is never sold unwrapped

A COMMONSENSE EDITORIAL

Thoughts

By BRUCE BARTON

ONE of the most interesting men in the United States is a nerve-specialist whom I am fortunate enough to count among my friends. The other day he was called upon to testify in the case of a woman who had been paralyzed by falling from a street-car.

She could not move an arm or a leg. Needles thrust into the flesh produced no pain, and the other customary tests all proved to the satisfaction of the jurors that paralysis was complete.

She was awarded heavy damages in spite of the testimony of my friend, who was convinced that her condition was entirely the result of her own thinking. He took interest enough in the case to follow it up, and discovered that two days after the award of damages the woman had made a complete recovery.

"You will say she was faking," he said in telling the story. "Was she? I say to you that with all my knowledge of the nervous system, I could not produce in myself such a condition. You couldn't do it. The woman herself could not do it again. But the combination of the shock and the thought was sufficient. She *knew* she was paralyzed, and so she was.

"I saw the same sort of thing again and again in the war," he continued. "There was a soldier who used to have an epileptic fit regularly at the stroke of seven every evening. That was the

hour when the heavy shelling began, but his fits lasted long after the war was over and withstood all treatment. I cured him finally by a positive counter-suggestion. I said to him: 'There is no form of epilepsy like this. I have lived for years among epileptics and I know. You thought yourself into this condition; you can think yourself out of it.'"

If a single thought is powerful enough to paralyze an arm or make a man epileptic, what are our thoughts good and bad—doing to us every day?

"To what base uses we put this ineffable intellect!" Emerson exclaimed. "To reading all day murders and railroad accidents, to choosing patterns for waistcoats and scarfs."

These are petty thoughts that fritter away power. What about the destructive thoughts—jealousy, envy, hatred, fear?

By a change of thought the yeomen of England became the unconquerable army of Cromwell. By a change of thought a handful of fishermen of Palestine transformed human history.

Because she "stirred people up to think who had never taken it into their heads to think before," Madame de Stael was banished from France by Napoleon. He could banish her, but he could not stop the thinking. It broke him.

It can break or make us all.



The Sampler -a favored Valentine token



Do you want her to know who sent the Valentine? You don't—and you do, especially if it's Whitman's Sampler. There's an air of unusualness about this famous box of sweets that you'll be proud to have her associate with your name. How she will enjoy the delicious chocolates and confections, the selections of the most critical candy tastes in America! Give the Sampler and you give a thrill.

A glance at the mysteriously written address. An air of suspense as the package is opened. Then a real thrill of pleasure when she finds it's a box of

Whitman's Chocolates

Chocolates neighborhood.

Suit the Valentine to the individual taste. Each of the celebrated Whitman packages has its own "personality" and its own admirers. The Sampler, A Fussy Package, Salmagundi, Cloisonné, Bonnybrook Milk Chocolates, The Heart Box. Selection is easy from these beautiful boxes, with their special Valentine bands and the charming variety of their assortments. Every box sent direct from us to our agents in your neighborhood.





All too few are the short stories written by Mr. Williams; yet when one is published the months of the author's silence are compensated for as here, and now, by another of the sort of tale he has made so much his own—the relations between a father and a son.

I BECAME involved that night in the extremely personal affairs of my formerly dear old friend, Remsen Cole, simply because I took the elevator going down instead of the one going up. I had been in the card-room playing bridge until rather late. So, being what one's friends are pleased to call a "poor old bachelor" and living there at the club, I was quite ready for bed. My three companions, however, being happy married men, did not want to go home. I suppose they have to make the most of it when they get a night off.

So I good-naturedly accompanied them down to the main floor, where, by the fireplace in the hall, I shared with these reckless revelers in the wild delight of a nightcap of plain Vichy. It was quite late for such eminently sober and respectable members of society to be lingering at the club, and as they sat there by a little table I could not help thinking of the dear dead days which I still hope are not beyond recall. The familiar scene had the same appearance outwardly, but in our tall glasses there was a great deal of cold water and nothing else. The lounge on the Fifth Avenue side, an immense and magnificent room of which we are justly proud, was empty. The backgammon-room was dark. The grill-room was closed. A lone servant in a shadowy corner of the hall was nodding, idle. Possibly there were a few members out in the billiard-room, but

otherwise the ground floor was utterly deserted except for ourselves.

permitted, "is inquiring for a Mr.

William E. Gladstone."

I mention these details because they are important. When Remsen Cole made his amazing entrance, I was the only one to witness it and thus was enabled to avert what might have caused a scandal to his home and my own. For even a bachelor may love his home, although it be but a club. My three friends were seated with their backs toward the street door, still absorbed in an animated discussion of their recent plays. By this time, however, I was standing and my back was turned toward the warmth of the flickering logs. Thus I was facing the entrance to the club. Suppressing a yawn but still pretending to enjoy the post-mortem, I happened to glance across the broad room as Saint Peter, to admit a member, briskly swung open the glass door leading from the vestibule giving on the side-street where the cars and taxicabs stop.

Remsen hurriedly dashed in like one pursued and fleeing for sanctuary. The door closed after him. Saint Peter himself, for his assistant was off duty by this time, inserted the peg opposite Mr. Cole's name, indicating that he was "in." I still failed to attach much significance to the incident, being perhaps too sleepy. I recall saying to myself: "Whatever it is, he's safe now, anyway." It is questionable whether a man's home is his castle any longer; but his club is. It is a place for protection and mutual male understanding—one of the few refuges left us where modern women cannot penetrate. Indeed in this club we no longer grant them even an annual Ladies' Day, always

an unmitigated nuisance. Why should we? They have plenty of clubs of their own. Let them stay there.

It now dawned on semi-somnolent mv consciousness that Cole's manner was even more extraordinary than I had surmised. Without stopping to deposit his hat and coat, he had passed the cloakroom on his right, the Strangers' room on his left, and was striding into the main portion of the hall with really quite undignified haste. Then he stopped abruptly and gazed about him, scowling, as if dazed. His handsome, still young-looking face was flushed.

again,' "Drinking said to myself. "Too bad. Such a nice wife and son. This was not entirely the self-righteousness of one who enjoys the use of alcohol too much to abuse it by getting I knew and liked Remsen's family. She was a Cranston. Moreover, since he had suddenly decided rather late in life to go in for what is called "a good time," meaning a bad one, he was by way of becoming a nuisance to his friends. We do not tolerate heavy drinking in this club; and I, as one of its officers, had for some time been observing this

former intimate of mine with grave apprehension and concern. Fearing that he would see me and try to join us, I was about to turn my back upon him when I saw him start, glance back at the door and then hurry away to the right in the direction of the now darkened lounge. I did not follow his transit, for my eye had been arrested by the actions of Saint Peter. He had opened the door about a foot and was now shaking his head with austere determination. He was evidently speaking to some one in the vestibule, but I was too far away to hear, and thank God, my bridge-mad companions were also. For, as I live and am a member of the House Committee, there now appeared at the sacred portals of one of the most dignified clubs in the country, the face and figure of a woman. She not only appeared but she was actually endeavoring to come in. I saw the gleam of a little white hand against the dark background of Peter's livery, for that much of her had got past him.

For a moment I was too much appalled by this unseemly apparition to move. My thoughts, if my sensations can be so referred to, were: "Merciful Heavens protect us!" Then, realizing that a crisis confronted me, I arose to the occasion as became an old member of the club and one of its responsible officers. Moving slowly at first construction of the club and one of its responsible officers.



friends, I hastened across to the door. Poor faithful Saint Peter was having difficulty. His face was white; his eyes were distended—he was struggling with this female! I knew he would rather die than give ground before her. I also knew that he fully realized the necessity of preventing a noisy outbreak.

I now heard an extremely raucous voice: "But I seen him

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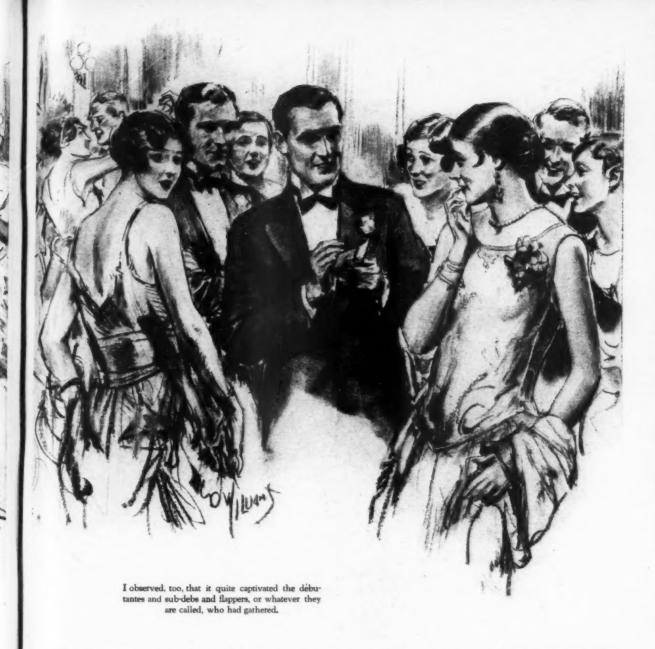
I now heard an extremely raucous voice: "But I seen him come in here." It is not always easy, in these degenerate days, when they all wear so few clothes and so much paint, to determine the various classes of females, but it was clear to me that she belonged to a social institution far more ancient than any man's club. Naturally I would not address her unless necessary. "Peter," I said with the quiet commanding dignity becoming to the occasion and the subject, "what does this young person wish?" I am not very tall, but I am often told that I have a dignified presence.

"I want to speak to the guy who come in here just now." She

had the effrontery to address me.
"Madam," I said, "this is not done."

"I don't give a damn about that, you fatty. I gotta see Billy, and I gotta see him quick." I am not fat.
"The lady," interjected Peter with as much austerity as his

old member of the club and one of its responsible officers. Mov"The lady," interjected Peter with as much austerity as his
ing slowly at first, so as not to attract the attention of my panting permitted, "is inquiring for a Mr. William E. Gladstone."



"There is no such person in this club," I remarked, "either as a member or on the visitors' list." Which, of course, was

"It don't matter to me what his real name is. He's here all right, and I gotta speak to him." Again she made as if to brush

I intervened. I decided to try diplomacy. I am not unconscious of being tactful when necessary. "Madam," I said, smiling down upon her, for I am bound to say that Rem had picked a pretty one, "this is a gentlemen's club. Ladies are not ad-

"Gentlemen, hell! No gentleman would treat a lady thata-

I perceived that force or fear would be necessary.

will you be good enough to telephone for the police?"

That had the desired effect. "All right," she said; "he got away from me this time, but I know where he holds out now, anyhow. I'll lay for him. I'll get him yet." She turned to leave. "One moment," I said. —"Peter, ring for a taxi." I was so

gratified and relieved that I thought the least I could do would be to send her home with some degree of comfort. I quite ignored her calling me "fatty."

Peter stamped the club taxi-card and presented it to me to sign. I knew better than that, however. She might get hold of my name and try some blackmailing trick on me.

I escorted the young person to the taxi. It was a daring thing to do, but the honor of the club was at stake. I would do even more than that to guard the sanctity of my home. I handed the cab-starter a five-dollar bill. "The lady will tell you where she wishes to go," I said. I looked up and down the street. No one was passing, fortunately. Then I hurried back to the warm safety of indoors. Peter murmured something to me as I passed him, but I made no reply. It was to be as if nothing had happened, and he knew it.

I had achieved this feat just in time, for now approaching me as I was casually sauntering back toward the fireplace, came the three bridge friends, still discussing their hands. It was a narrow escape.

I said good-night to them briefly, and as they stepped into the cloak-room, I proceeded to the lounge.

There, standing by the curtains and looking out of the window giving on the side-street which the club entrance faces, I found Remsen Cole.

The tall figure turned as I approached. It was too dark to see

his expression. At times he has a way of smiling down as if amused. Rather disconcerting! "Willie," he said, "that was he said, "that was

amused. Rather disconcerting! "Wille," he said, "that awfully decent of you, you know."
"Rem," I said, "this sort of thing wont do, you know."
"Do? I should say not. Thanks for helping me out." He

was not smiling this time.

I thought I ought to let him know that it wasn't entirely for his sake. "Such things don't happen here," I said a bit sternly.
"I know. Rotten. But what could I do? I was
cornered, so I ran in here to escape." He moved

away as if the incident were closed.
"Hereafter," I suggested as gently as I could,

"it would be pleasanter all round to let yourself

be blackmailed at your office.'

He turned, looked at me and shook his head. "It's not blackmail, Willie. I wish it were. offered her money-quite a lot of it. The poor kid's crazy about me, and I can't get rid of her."

I think I ought to add, in justice to my formerly intimate friend, that he did not allude to this

sordid little affair in the offensively complacent manner some middle-aged men exhibit in such cases. He did not seem pleased with himself, but genuinely sorry for the girl. He had not lost his calm distinction in voice and bearing, though it was clear that he was still handicaped by considerable excitement. There was an attractive simplicity in this revelation. "By the way," he said, "what's the penalty?"

"It's not for me to say," I told him.
"Going to report it to the governors? Do you think they'll suspend me?

After all, he was not only an old friend, but was new at this sort of thing. I considered it my duty to give him a scare, but I had no intention of reporting it. Peter and the starter were the only other witnesses, and I knew that they could be trusted.

"Fortunately," I said, "the girl doesn't know your real name.'

"I wasn't fool enough for that," he replied.

"But she knows that you're a member here, and I would advise you to stay away from the club entirely for a month or two. She intends to 'lay' for you."

"Did Mary say that?"
"Mary?" I asked. "What a strange name for one of "Mary?" those!

"All right," he said, "I'll disappear for a while. You mean you're not going to report it?
"I'm going to forget it."

"Thanks, Willie; I appreciate your kindness."
"No kindness about it. I simply don't want a scandal in the club."

"All right. I understand." He turned to leave.
"Oh—and Rem," I said, stopping him, "of course it's none of my business, but we were once rather close, you and I. If I were you, I'd cut out being a fool. It doesn't suit your type.

"All right. Thanks. I believe I will. Good old Willie But of course he didn't. He stayed away from the club, but rumors came to me from various sources of his having a "good time" in deplorable ways and in various portions of town. there are plenty of ways in this town for those who wish to go

in for that sort of thing.

Whether his "domestic unhappiness," as it is called, was the cause or the result of all this, I never found out. But it had come upon him quite suddenly. He had not drifted into "evil companionship." He had deliberately plunged into it when well along in middle-age, after many years of sober, godly and industrious life. Perhaps he had reached the "now-or-never" stage and was determined to make up for the "lost opportunities of youth." I am using these old hackneyed phrases merely to show how little I know about what was really going on inside of him. All I was sure of was that he seemed determined to explore the

These may seem strange tastes for a man of his inherited "in-stincts and traditions." That is what we like to say, but we are merely flattering ourselves, our class. Family traditionsyes; but human instincts know no class distinctions. Nature is never a snob. It is simply that some men learn to inhibit that ninety per cent of the natural man which is the common heritage of the race, and some do not. In any event, it has been my observation that when a man of Remsen Cole's station in life suddenly decides to let himself go, he is quite likely to go so far that he cannot come back.

Meanwhile, Saint Peter, who, amusingly enough, had made me a sort of confidant, reported that the young woman had ceased



to haunt the neighborhood of the club. I merely said, "I see," and passed on into the cloak-room, where I have a private hook of my own so that I do not have to be bothered by taking and, peradventure losing, a check for my things like ordinary members. Of course I did not tell Peter that I too, from my favorite chair by a window in the corner of the lounge commanding a view both of the avenue and of the side-street, had frequently and with some apprehension observed the young person either in a taxicab or sauntering by, unattended. But we both felt deeply relieved now. Neither of us had seen her for over a month. I suppose we both secretly hoped, as each of us in our different ways were loyal defenders of the dignity of the club, that the girl was dead. Most of them die within a few years, I have been told.

unki

In accordance with the promise I had made Remsen Cole, I informed him that the coast was clear now, but I intimated tactfully that the club could hardly be expected to tolerate a repetition of his offense. So he returned to us, and I am bound to say that he was very careful not to abuse the club's privileges. For at least a month he was not once drunk-that is, at the club.

Meanwhile, perhaps as an expression of his gratitude, he invited me to be one of a house-party at his charming country place for a week-end. This, I confess, rather surprised me. For two reasons: Although I think I may say I am quite popular and am in considerable demand for dinners, I had never felt that the Coles and their rather exclusive set appreciated me. And I

was somewhat pleased at their finding that I was desirable. But it was more surprising to find that Remsen and his very charming wife seemed, so far as a mere bachelor could make out, not only to admire each other but to be on terms of the frank-est and most congenial friendship. They even est and most congenial friendship. laughed together. I mean, when they thought none

do it. I had understood that a formal but secret separation had been arranged. My understanding, as it turned out, was correct. But they were also formally living under the same roof-that is, when Rem came home at night—in order to keep up appearances, not merely in the eyes of the world, but in the eyes of their only son, whom they both adored. The boy was in college now and had reached the age of discernment if not discretion. His parents were so successful, however, in this domestic bluff so frequently attempted in so many of our best homes, that, as I found out afterward, the boy had never suspected the truth.

I may as well add at this point that he knew nothing of that dark side of his father's life, and if his mother guessed it, she allowed no one in her family, or out of it, to be aware of her

knowledge or conjecture. She was a thoroughbred. I had met her years before when she first came out, rather brilliantly. A bit rigid, per-haps, rather than frigid, but that had been Remsen's style too, at the time of their marriage. It had re-mained his style throughout all

those hard-working years while he amassed his not inconsiderable fortune.

Thanks be to God and all the dear women who were good enough to de-cline to marry me when I was young and weak, I am not a father; but if I had a son, that boy Cranston Cole is more like what think I could endure than any youngster I have ever met. He had inherited much of his father's charm and something of his mother's good and fineness. Not all of the younger generation, I am happy to state, are noisy and naughty, blatant and scornful. Young

Cranston was an upstanding manly boy with the low voice and simple manners of good breed-ing, and he had a twinkling smile which quite captivated me, despite the fact that he insisted upon calling me "sir."

I observed, too, that it quite captivated the débutantes and sub-debs and flappers, or whatever they are now called, who had gathered for a dance Saturday evening. We older people

looked on for a while after playing bridge. "His father over again," I said to myself, recalling scenes back in the golden nineties when Rem was so popular-in those beautiful days of pompadours and puffed sleeves-that we called him a ladies' man and he didn't like it, and tried his best to become a woman-hater. He could not succeed at this youthful ambition, but-who knows?-it may have had much to do with his present deplorably unbecoming ambitions in middle-life.

The son was doing well at college and seemed by way of emulating his father's social and athletic success there. striking thing to me about this boy, in the light of new-generation doctrine, was that he liked his parents, both of them. Yes, such things still happen even in these horrifying days. It is quite possible that many of them still love their fathers and mothers, but that is different. Cranston actually liked his, found them congenial, enjoyed their society, if he didn't have too much of it—even sought it! That is rare. (Continued on page 136)



unknown, picked up a bottle and bashed him

over the head with it.

The MORAL REVOLT

By JUDGE BEN B. LINDSEY

Judge of the Juvenile and Family Court of Denver, Colorado

MY CREED

My creed is a simple one. I think it is up to the human race to behave in a way that will intelligently make for the happiness and welfare of the greatest number of persons; that we are to use our common sense, as individuals, in judging what conduct, in any specific situation, will do that. I think the best morality is based on happy, expansive and generous living which reckons duly on the happiness of others, and takes pleasure in that happiness. But

NEZ, aged seventeen, and Fred, aged twenty, having married in haste, were repenting at leisure. They were pained and surprised to find that marriage had not married them. Apparently some one had blundered. The marriage ceremony was not, they had discovered, a magic formula after all, and what they wanted now was legal recognition of a separation which already existed in fact. Inez had gone back to her parents, and Fred had moved to a single room, after selling their furniture and giving to his wife what money the sale yielded.

They had spent several months in an unsuccessful effort to

adjust their relations, but finally gave it up; and now they ap-

adjust their relations, but finally gave it up; and now they appeared before me to ask that I annul their marriage.

There were no ill feelings, they declared. Inez demonstrated this by beginning to weep dolefully, while Fred, who had a red, round, good-natured face, clumsily patted her shoulder. Their desire for release, they said, was mutual. They had tried hard, and they were satisfied that marriage for them was a failure.

"Why did you get married in the first place?" I asked.

Here Inez began to weep afresh. I finally gathered that they had lived together surreptitionally for days at a time in a little

had lived together surreptitiously for days at a time in a little room Fred had strained his purse to rent; and they had found this sample of heaven so delectable that they wanted more than a sample. And marriage, of course, was the logical way to get what they wanted-which was nothing short of love in a cottage, with golden happiness together forever and ever.

I have many such cases. Yet this one troubled me more than most. It did seem as if it should be possible to make a success of this marriage. So I talked with them together and I talked with them separately, but all in a vain effort to reconcile their differences. Many of these differences were childish, but they were sufficiently vital to them. The root of the trouble was poverty. Fred didn't make enough for two, and they had painfully found out that two cannot live as cheaply as one.

Poverty had come in at the door, and Love had fled through the window. A very old story. Another phase of their trouble was the sense of ownership and possessive jealousy which they had both acquired when they married. To their way of thinking, that was one essential part of marriage.

After putting them off for many weeks, and after consultations with their parents, I finally decided that an annulment would be the best solution. So I called in Inez and Fred, and had them sign certain preliminary papers. I could have given them the annulment out of hand; but I wanted to gain time because I still hoped against hope that there would develop a way out.

Having signed the preliminary papers, the two went off, apparently happy and relieved.

Several weeks later I was about to conclude the matter, when a report reached me that Inez and Fred had gone back to living together. I immediately sent for them. Fred was not available

just then, but Inez came promptly.
"Inez," I began severely, "what is this I hear about your living with Fred? Don't you know that we can't have that? How can I give you an annulment if you go on living with him, and apparently making a success of marriage after all? Judging by what I hear, you and Fred are getting on all right, and don't need an annulment anyway."

need an annulment anyway."

The effect of this on Inez was electrical. As she listened, her eyes widened. When I had finished, she sprang from her chair as if it were hot. "What?" she gasped. "Aren't we annulled? Why, Judge, we signed the papers. We thought we were annulled! That's why we're living together!"

"Oh," I said, "that's why you're living together! Well, that wasn't an annulment. Those were merely the preliminaries—

so you're just as honest as ever, Inez. You are still an honest married woman, Inez. Do you realize that?"
"I don't want that," she wailed. "I want to live with Fred

and be his sweetheart. couldn't have lived with him a day if I hadn't thought we were annulled. If we had known we were still married-why-why-Here she stopped short, an odd look of panic and bewilderment on her face.

"Yes?" I put in.
"I couldn't have lived with him," she repeated ve-

hemently.

"But you did," I re-rted. "And you've aptorted .parently gotten along fine.

Inez sat down dejectedly. "I know we have," she lamented, like one looking back on happy days irrev-ocably gone. "We've gotocably gone. ten along just as well as we used to before we were really married. And now you've spoiled it all by not annulling us. And we're still married. I'm his balland-chain, and he's mine: and we'll never, never be able to live together any more unless you annul us. Judge, you've just got to annul us. Judge, you'll annul us, wont you? If you don't," she finished with a flash of defiance, "we'll wait till we're twenty-one, and then we'll get a divorce.

"So that you can live together?" I asked-for I found this twist in her thought most interesting.

Inez shook her little bobbed head fiercely. "Yes

-but what'll become of us in the meantime? We just can't make a go of it married. We've tried and tried. But if we just live together because we love each other, why-everything is fine. And oh, we've got the sweetest room; and yesterday I put up chintz curtains, and-and-" And from there on she poured forth a lyric tale that was everything the story of their marriage, as they had formerly told it to me, ought to have been but was not. Her story was really one of the most sardonic commentaries on our pres-

ent code of marriage that I had ever heard. Psychologically Inez and Fred had sinned a deadly sin. Psychologically they had lived together unmarried. According to the prevailing hypocrisy and cant, they were no longer respectable or pure-since we all profess to believe that sin consists in the mental and spiritual condition of the sinner in his attitude toward what are supposed to be the laws of God. By all that society professes, Inez and Fred were in precisely the position of any man and woman who choose to defy God and man, and "flout all that is most sacred in human life." But in point of fact they were socially just as respectable and sinless as ever. social status was in no way jeopardized by the "sin" they had thought they were committing. The thing they had done could be known and published from the housetops; and yet society and the church, professing to have a sense of moral values dependent on people's spiritual condition, would pass the whole thing by with perfect complaisance, on the ground presumably that these two had been saved from sin in spite of themselves. For a man and his wife to live together is pure and proper. Nay, it is commanded by Divine Writ for the continuance of the race. Ergo, these two, in living together were pure and proper, though they hadn't the slightest thought of being so.

Of any who deny that the church and society take this



attitude in the matter, I ask where is the punishment, where the stigma, that would be visited on Inez and Fred by every person in Denver if their identities were known-by their friends, by the minister of their church, by whom you The stigma and the like. punishment would have been forthcoming fast enough had their annulment been an accomplished fact, and had the news of their subsequent liaison gotten abroad. And yet they were the same per-sons, with the same way of thought and behavior in the one case as in the other; and their deserts were the same, annulment or no annulment. If they deserved censure and punishment and social ostracism in the one case, they deserved it in the other. Why would society and the church fail to attach such stigma and punishment in the absence of the annulment of the marriage? Simply because our "ethics" in these matters is an ancient superstition, a pretense, which has been maintained so long and so often that we believe it ourselves, even when don't even pretend to abide by it.

It simply proves once more that the real reason why society is concerned

with marriage is to provide for the protection and care of children; that chastity hasn't a thing to do with it save as it bears on the coming and the care of children, and that when we reinforce these considerations with socalled divine commands or purity myths, we are hypnotizing ourselves and living in a fool's paradise. It is a very dangerous state of mind for any civilization to be in. Dishonest thinking is the most dishonest and most dangerous thing in the world.

This is not a thrust at purity or chastity, though I suppose some will jump at the conclusion that it is. It is a thrust at the cant and sanctimony that find expression in blather about the "foundations of society" and what some persons are perfectly sure is "the will of God." Until we learn Until we learn to think from the facts we can't expect to know what is the will of God, or to do it. The two kinds of knowledge maintain a constant ratio. Wisdom is virtue. At present we act by one code and we pretend to another and a heaped-up mountain of human misery is the result.

But to return to Inez. The conversation that followed was so extensive that I can't attempt to give it all The upshot was that I persuaded Inez that since the preliminary papers had been quite as effective in her case as a full annulment, we had better let well enough alone.

I pointed out that society would not have the slightest objection to her and Fred continuing to pretend to themselves that they were annulled, if that gave them comfort. Furthermore, she could keep on with the new job she had secured; and Fred could keep his. Thus they would have enough to live on—which they hadn't had before. In short, she could go right on being Fred's sweetheart. The fact that he was her husband needn't

fred's sweetheart. The fact that he was her husband needn't prevent that. And if they loved each other and were legally married to boot, everything was provided for; and what more could they want?

Society, I explained, whatever it might say about the matter, really intended legal marriage for the protection of children. She and Fred were not financially ready for babies yet; but I hoped they would be later. In the meantime they could live together; and they didn't have to rattle the legal skeleton that so terrified them unless they wanted to.

In the end Inez departed, quite happy over being able to eat her cake and have it too. She and Fred are still playing at being lovers; and so long as they see it that way, I think it would take something more than a court of law to divorce them.

What society should have provided for those two youngsters in the first place, in my opinion, was a special form of legal marriage suited to their condition and their needs. They should have been permitted to marry on the understanding that their purpose was simply to enjoy the full companionship which such living would make possible. A further part of the contract should have been that in the event of children they were expected by society to accept the respon-sibility that would involve, but that so long as they had no children their marriage would continue only so long as they mutually wished it to do so, and they could obtain a divorce by simply asking for it in a designated court of law.

To enter on such a compact, it would be necessary for them to show, to the satisfaction of a magistrate, that they were physically, mentally—and economically—fit to assume such responsibilities. Having, with due thought and consideration assumed them, they would be expected to carry on; and only for the gravest reasons would the court later permit them to abrogate such a contract and go their ways, leaving a broken home and children deprived of one or both their parents.

Suppose we had such a marriage code as that. What would happen? Why, thousands of young people who can't think of marriage at present, and who are eating their hearts out for each other, and in many cases indulging in secret liaisons at great and needless risk, could

get married. If they did, that would be a safeguard, both for them and for society, since it would bring their union under adequate social control. Their lives would be normalized. They would become more happy and competent in the business of living than would otherwise be possible.

They would, moreover, usually escape one danger that has become a paramount evil in American civilization, the danger of becoming obsessed by sex. Our present code exposes them to that. Under a changed code they would escape it. The effect of the change on our national morals, our national nerves, our national character, and our national divorce statistics, and even our national crime records, would be beyond calculation. If one tried to figure such a change in economic terms, it would be necessary to put the saving in terms of billions of dollars. This is no exaggeration. Sex and money are the two mainsprings of ordinary human action. Change a sex code and you change everything—even money. Yes, even art, and religion and litera-

ture, and everything else fundamental you may care to name.

The effect on procreative marriage alone would be a thing beyond calculation and beyond price. People would not enter such marriages hastily, because they wouldn't need to-since their sex lives would find normal expression in another recognized social channel. Most procreative marriages would grow out of nonprocreative unions that had already had a chance to prove their physical and material permanence. Much of the marital troubles among young people that I deal with involve the coming of a child in the first year. It is a headlong, ill-considered, dangerous business, as we have it. But the companionate marriage would put off the birth of babies till the groundwork of a home had been laid. Under such a system, domestic relations courts would run one hour where they now run twelve.

Finally, it would be the salvation of thousands of young people who at present are given their choice between an abstinence which is against nature, but which our present code nevertheless demands of them, and a form of marriage economically impossible for them, a form which thousands are today avoiding by means of the "unmarried union."

The unmarried union is dangerous because it is subject to no recognized control; and because, being secret, it has no inducements to moderation and reason-

able stability and restraint. It is like a balloon without ballast. Since it specializes in evasion and defiance of public opinion, it tends to go to extremes of license. It evades and defies all restraint, the good with the bad.

I hope those of my friends who reproach me for my views as here expressed will find some consolation and hope for my immortal soul in the above passage. I hope, too, that when they quote me by lifting passages from the context in such a way as to twist my meaning, they will be sure and lift this one. Let them note, however, that I have nowhere said that persons who



Benetta Brevoort Lindsey, who celebrated her third birthday recently.



Judge Lindsey handling a case in characteristic fashion—in the privacy of his judicial chambers.

indulge in these unions are impure, immoral, lost, ruined, damned or otherwise theologically destroyed. Many of them seem to me to have a much better chance of making the grade into heaven than the witch-hunting portion of the population. I'm for the Ten Commandments as much as any of the brethren but I mix them with common-sense. It makes a great combination.

The adoption of the companionate marriage, as I choose to call it, would not be a disguised form of free-love; it would simply bring under control a situation that is today largely beyond the control of such laws and customs as we have. It would reduce to a minimum illicit relationships, and lack of effective legal and social guidance and control in a department of life where such guidance and control are imperatively needed—and, as I think I have shown, conspicuously lacking.

For it is my belief that present methods and present codes are the main cause of sexual lawlessness. I can't understand the point of view of persons who insist on a return to former standards when those standards have so clearly failed to produce the restraint and sanity in sex conduct which they were intended to produce. Why not use more sense and less superstition? Why not intelligently guide these social tendencies into channels where society can benefit by this huge Niagara of emotional power which is now running to waste?

Annulment? Inez didn't want an annulment. What she wanted was Fred. She and Fred alike wanted each other for a good and human reason: each wanted the satisfaction of intimate companionship with another human being, the sort of spiritual intimacy which the generous emotional power of sex makes so readily and so normally possible in successful marriage. That is why it is not good for man to live alone. Inez therefore took

the only thing she thought she could get, illicit union with the man she loved.

In their case both the economics and the psychology of marriage were involved. Their situation irked them. To this some one might retort that in that event they should not have married. I answer that in that event about ninety-seven per cent of married persons should not have married—which is nonsense. It isn't that people should not marry, but that they should have the right conception of marriage.

It is marriage as we have it that is at fault, not the people who marry. They take what they can get. They enter marriage full of hope, their vision misted by emotion, and it isn't till later that they find society grinning in at them through the bars of a steel cage. And when they see it is a cage, do they want to get out—even the thousands who are too proper or too faithful to say so? They do. Don't ask anything else of human nature when it is unfairly taken advantage of. It's that way.

I am aware that many good persons who consider sex intrinsically sinful—largely because they are very uncritical readers of Scripture—would argue that this would simply let down the bars to a saturnalia of lust. I answer that what is creating and magnifying lust today is the very system of repression and needless restraint which these very people advocate. Restrictions? Yes! But not that kind. Sex is as moderate, normal and moral a thing as the desire for food. To damn it by calling it "an animal passion" by no means disposes of the matter. Psychologists now know the close relationship that exists between the sex instinct and religious emotion. I sha'n't argue this point here. It is an old story, and the facts are well established. What it means is not that religious emotion is a degraded or animal

thing, but rather that sex emotion being in a degree identical with the emotions of religion, is an exalted and spiritual thing. It is simply a question of where you prefer to put the emphasis.

I repeat, then, sex is a spiritual thing; moreover it is also as natural and right as the desire for food-provided you give it normal expression and don't make universal famine a part of your method of guarding people from the sin of gluttony. You can make any man a glutton by making it exceedingly hard for him to obtain food, or by forcing him to steal food, or to eat it only in secret for fear he will be accused of gluttony and grossness. Yet even such an attitude toward food hun-

ger has been taken by some fanatics.

The traditional puritan attitude toward the sex hunger is just as insane and baseless. Sex is a hunger, healthful to feel and healthful to gratify. It is simply idiotic for society not to recognize this and provide adequate social regulations for its healthful expression. We have, in many quarters, the saturnalia of sex that these people fear; and they are the very ones who have created it. What I want to do is to end it.

RECALL another annulment case that came before me practically coincident with that of Inez and Fred. Another young couple, whom I will name Katherine and George, both of them under age, had married in similar circumstances. They had finally grown tired of having to live together on the sly, and they had therefore got married in order that they might live together openly and keep out of trouble. As is the case in nearly all affairs of this kind, they had no qualms of conscience in the matter. They considered that they were being unconventional but not immoral; and they married because they considered marriage expedient.

Trouble began right away. They rented an apartment and started a home. Katherine gave up her job. This cut their joint income to one-They did all this because they had the traditional notion that since they were married it was up to them to put together the machinery of a home where children could be raised. Katherine, married, looked on herself as a potential mother. They were potential parents whether competent to undertake parenthood or not. Otherwise, according to society, they should not have married.

Moreover Katherine gave up all her boy friends, and George looked no more upon other girls. Restrictions resulted which they took for granted they must impose upon each othermarital jealousy being, as we all know, a cardinal virtue in our present marriage code, though jealousy, in any form, and under any conditions, is demonstrably one of the most hideous vices of which the human heart is capable.

Something other than their own will, in short, had entered into the union, and it thrust them apart. By the time the case reached me, it was hopeless. I put them off; I cajoled and persuaded. Nothing worked. After taking counsel with their par-

ents, I gave them the annulment they wanted.

The moment I consented to do this, the atmosphere began to I saw them look at each other-at first with mutual congratulation, and then apparently in a kind of panic, as if some-

thing were forcibly depriving them of each other. While still in the court, they withdrew into a corner where they talked together earnestly, holding each other's hands, and clinging to each other as if fearing what might follow. There chanced to be present a middle-aged unmarried woman, as noted for her scorn of men as for her moral rectitude. This estimable lady came rushing up to one of the court officers in great indignation. protesting because this young couple were permitted to sit and talk together, and even hold hands.

"Why," she cried angrily, "these people are having their marriage annulled. And yet Judge Lindsey permits them to carry on as if there were nothing the matter. It's perfectly disgraceful. They should be kept apart. They've no business to be friendly!"

When, on another day, Katherine and George left the court

together, no longer married now, Katherine, realizing her loss,

suddenly began to weep.

"Never mind, honey," said her former husband, slipping his arm protectingly about her. "If we can't make out better unmarried, we'll get married again."

Fortunately the woman who had objected to their hobnobbing before the annulment was not present.

I haven't a doubt that that couple, when things had quieted down in their respective families, went back to living together sub rosa. Again I ask: Why should society not have provided them a legal and respectable way to do it, by means of a special form of companionate marriage suited to their needs, which are the needs of thousands like them?

They loved each other; it was natural and normal that they

should want each other, in the relationship they had sought in marriage. They had desired this before, and they still desired it. It was the same mental state after the annulment as it had been before. Why demand that they choke and kill it? Why not give them a way of expressing it that would be, not merely socially harmless, but even socially bene-ficial? I don't see what society gained by forbidding them what their natures craved, but which they could not maintain under the present marriage code. I am satisfied that these two were capable of working a huge benefit in each other's lives, and that society loses by the insane and ignoble taboos which would prevent their further union and frustrate their future happiness. George and Katherine together, are more normal, more productive members of society, than apart, provided they can be happy together. They should have some legally sanctioned means of being together and seeking that happiness.

This would make law and reasonable responsibility before society, factors in unions where there is at present no law and frequently no social responsibility or restraint, but only destructive suggestions of sin, the sense of guilt and fear, the inducement to excess, and the urge toward an un-

discriminating promiscuity.

Above all it would tend to keep young people from placing on sex a greater emphasis than sex should be given in their lives. There are other things in life than sex; but they don't seem to know it. The reason is that this condition in our sex code obliterates all else and makes sex the whole object of thought and attention. Under such conditions sex readily becomes a destructive force.

The assertion that marriage is adequate as we have it, I deny the truth of. The fruits of our

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marriage code speak for themselves; and the protests and denials that are being made by some of the clergy and the Bench as a result of the assertions in these articles are in themselves a proof that I speak the truth.

Marriage is capable of taking care of itself if we will give it a chance, and make of it something other than a travesty of

what it might be.

Consider, for instance, the way that young couple clung to each other, how they were trying to find a way to be really married, and how difficult society makes it for them by having one unvarying rigid formula for every mind and every heart. Think of the incredible folly of a society that would throw such loyalty and love as theirs upon the scrap-heap and cry: "Un-clean!"

That recognition by society of the two kinds of marriage I have been discussing would involve the assistance of modern science,

goes almost without saying.

In the meantime it would startle a good many persons if they knew how widespread, among young people in every class of society, is the knowledge of what science has already developed. I pause to remind my critics that I am not responsible for this; and that I am merely recording what I know to be a fact. In other words, whether you and I approve or not, they are developing in practice, among themselves, a mode of living without traditional marriage which suits them. It is a condition which exists in lieu of the companionate marriage which should be available to them.

I am sorry to have to record this. But it is too important, and too conclusive, to omit. It is significant of a prevalent condition. People who "simply refuse to believe it" may go on wearing blinders and protesting if they will; but the facts stand, and they mean something. They are so patently packed with meaning that I am at a loss to understand the point of view of the excellent people who will write me letters of protest when they

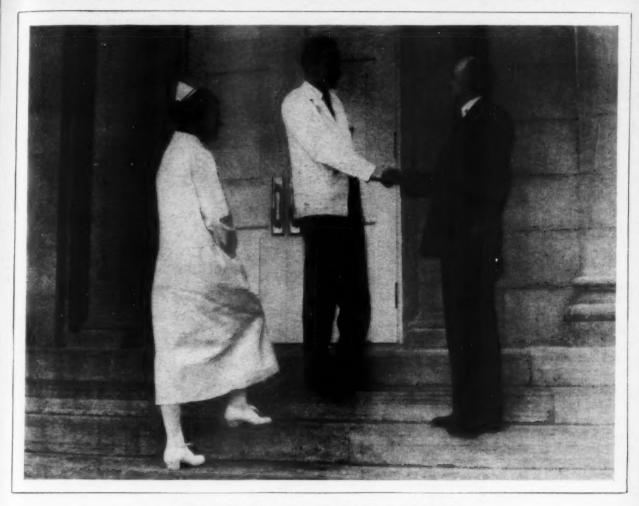


RABBI MAXWELL M. FARBER

Congregation B'nai Jeshurun, Staten Island, New York

After reading Judge Lind-sey's book, "The Revols of Modern Youth," which is virtually being continued in the tresent series of articles, wrote to Judge Lindsey:
"I bave just completed

reading your wonderful an-alysis of the problem of modern youth. May I say that your book is a most stimulating and enlightening study, and that I consider myself as one of those who was not shocked by your courage to face and tell the truth?"



A snapshot of Judge Lindsey as he stopped to shake hands with Dr. Haviland of the State Hospital and Miss Nelson, a nurse.

read this: "This isn't true. It is an exceptional case. You don't see anything of the good boys and girls." But I do! Most of these young people are supposed by their parents and teachers to be absolutely "moral," or at worst rather given to a liking for jazz and cigarettes, but otherwise perfectly "straight." I hasten to add that I know many other youngsters who not only seem "straight" but are straight. I meet them here in my chambers all the time, for one reason or another having nothing to do with their own conduct. Some come to see the court, others in behalf of friends, and so on. But it is not of these that I am speaking here.

Some persons ask: "What if all this is true? What good does it do to tell it? Such things as you are recording have always happened. We know that."

I answer: they have not always happened. No such wholesale rebellion against the ancient conventions of sex has ever been known before in the history of our civilization. The reason is that this present civilization is the first of its kind.

Whether you interpret these facts as evidence of a hopeless condition of moral corruption, after the manner of those who think the traditional interpretations of chastity are the alpha and omega of sociology and the last word on this complex question, or whether you think it a lawless and passing phase in a process of social change which



Photo by Boyce Studie

JAMES E. PEABODY Head of the Department of Biology in the Morris High School of New York City

Says of Judge Lindsey's book, "The Revols of Modern Youth," of which these articles are in all essentials a continuation:

a continuation:
"I read your book with
absorbing interest, and have
spoken of it often in the
lectures I gave on the Pacific
Coast, and since my return."

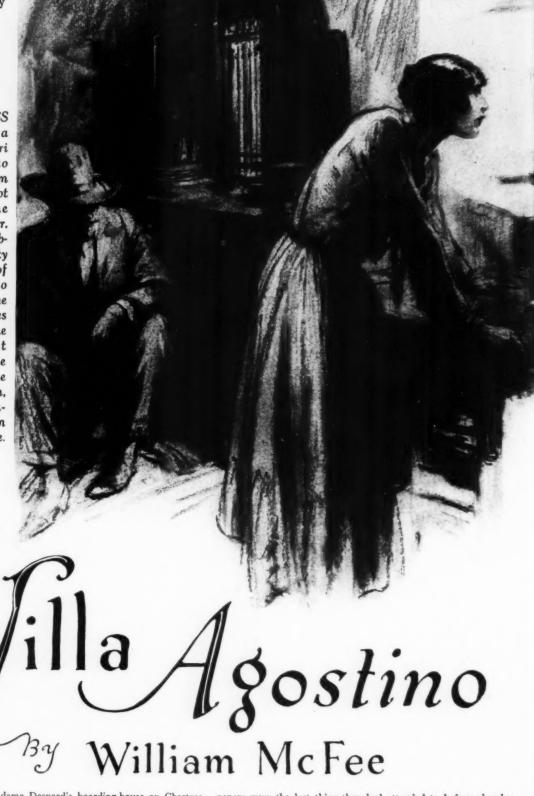
will in time become orderly and amenable to legal and social control, depends on your way of thought. Personally I haven't a doubt about the outcome, though I regret that so many young feet are treading this perilous road today.

I T is pertinent to ask why are they treading it— not in occasional and exceptional instances, but by hundreds and even by thousands. And why has this same impulse reached even into the ranks of the older generation, as I have already tried to What is the matter with the well-intentioned people who think they can stop such a process by preaching sermons, shouting denunciations, denying self-evident facts, and quoting texts to cover their own want of courage to think for themselves? Moreover why has sex become a secret, unacknowledged obsession in our puritanborn and puritan-bred civilization? If the puritan outlook on life is good, why has it borne such speckled and poisonous fruit as this? Under what provocation do these boys and girls, who are at bottom not different from the boys and girls of less hectic generations, think so exclusively about sex that they apparently have no room in their heads for anything else? Why is the older generation of this day so restive, and so furtive, under its cloak of conventionality?

I answer, for the same reason that the minute the prohibition law was (Continued on page 154) Illustrated by
Dudley
Gloyne
Summers

DOUBTLESS there is not a Central Ameri can port into which William McFee has not sailed at one time or another. And he has absorbed the reality and the color of those borts, to the end that he can write stories such as this one -stories that fairly take the reader to the spot, and let him, unseen and unheard, share in great adventure.

The



THE clients of Madame Despard's boarding-house on Chartres Street, New Orleans, were mostly men who had stepped hastily from the gangways of fruit-ships arriving from Caribbean ports. They were not furtive, it must be understood. Indeed, they were almost ostentatious in their manly challenge to authority. Their papers were very much in order. Sometimes those

papers were the last thing they had attended to before abandoning their offices in the warm humid scenes of their late activities. But they were unaffectedly glad when the cab put them down before the unpretentious *confiserie* in Chartres Street. To most of these stormy petrels of Latin-America, this was home.

Madame Despard's guests were usually men. Madame liked



Jovita examined these two men sharply. "I know you," she said, secure in the presence of Emilio behind her.

She was one of those women who are, quite apart from their sex and their business, interested in men. And she had a permanent boarder who was also interested in men. Voight, a wealthy and retired spy, had the best room facing the patio, where Madame Despard's cats, four huge yellow animals, lay on the warm flagstones by the fountain, like tigers reposing after a full meal of Christians. Señora Voight was no longer youthful, but her fancy for men younger than herself was unimpaired. Her last husband, fourth of his line, a handsome boy from Salvador, had deserted her not long before Mr. Harry Trancher and his chum Jack Ferrell, gentlemen adventurers, just in from Honduras on business, arrived in Chartres Street. It had been a blow, but women like Señora Voight possess an emotional resiliency that would stagger Casanova. The Señora revived. She saw them from the gallery of the patio and smiled. That was the unfortunate part of Señora Voight-her smile. One of her teeth was formed of a square-cut diamond, and it gave her face a peculiar expression. It glittered. When she lit a cigar, as was her custom, after dinner, the match-flare and the puff of smoke gave her mouth an appearance of luminous animosity.

Mr. Trancher, who was big and burly and had a round face with features of a homogeneous pallor, as though they were molded in gutta-percha, was disturbed at the close-up view he had of Señora Voight's flashing smile. He had never become used to women smoking cigars, either. He said as much to Jack Ferrell. Jack's weakness, Mr. Trancher regretted, was girls. Mr. Trancher himself was a woman-hater. He was devoted to his old mother in Bootle, England, and disapproved of Jack's philandering. And yet it was Jack who had the dreams. Since he was gassed on the Saloniki front, Jack had had strange dreams.

They had left the freighter Cuyahoga at the foot of Calliope Street, where she had docked on arrival from Havana. They warned Madame that they were merely transients—going to New York. Madame asked no questions. Most of her clients were transients on their way to New York. They described themselves as purchasing agents. And these two were Englishmen, they pointed out. Madame said she had another Englishman, a Mr. Brown. They could sit at his table.

Mr. Brown. They could sit at his table.

They did. Mr. Brown's nationality was not immediately apparent. A man who for a number of years has crossed Latin-

American frontiers, two jumps ahead of a warrant for his arrest, becomes something of a cosmopoli-tan. Mr. Brown had experienced these reverses of fortune, and he had also been a conductor on the Occidental Railway in Colombia, a school-teacher in Bucaramanga, which is in the departimento of Santander, and secretary to Don Rafael Sebastian José Canafístolo, whose extensive hacienda in the Maracaibo Basin had been described by geologists as a mere fertile crust on the surface of an illimitable lake of petroleum.

It was not Jack who listened to Mr. Brown's recital. Harry Trancher often regretted that Jack had no initiative. Since demobil-

ization, these two had wandered to and fro through Latin-America. At a time prior to 1914 Mr. Trancher had been employed in some railroad shops in Venezuela. He had left under a cloud, with very little to his credit save a working knowledge of Spanish. And somehow he and his chum Jack Ferrell, who had been gassed in the Struma Valley, and who seemed unable to hold a job very long nowadays, stuck together. It might have been affection, but there was no method by which either of these two derelicts of the war could express how they felt about it. Jack left it to Harry. What Harry told him was good enough. He was big and very strong and light on his feet, and for a short spell he could fight with extraordinary ferocity—then he would lose his wind.

It was Harry who schemed, and who now listened, like an intelligent dog, with his head on one side, to the sad history of Señor Brown. Jack lay back in the chair, his eyes fixed upon the dark blue night sky above the tiled roof of Madame Despard's, dreaming of his own queer fancies. Harry glanced at his chum at times. These lapses puzzled him. Jack should be getting better soon. Gas ought to be out of his lungs and brain by now. Take an interest in other things besides skirts.

Mr. Brown's tale was an interminable monologue concerning the ingratitude of Señor Don Sebastian Canafistolo. Would anybody believe such ingratitude existed, he asked Mr. Trancher. Four years of unremitting and almost incredible fidelity, during which Mr. Brown had saved that man millions, literally millions of francs, pesos and bolivars, rewarded by the acceptance of his resignation. Conceive it—impoverished!

Mr. Brown was not impressive in the ordinary sense. He had a long body and short legs, a large mustache and a still larger nose, and he was incapable of a smile. Unlike Señora Voight, his teeth were invisible at all times. He was undersized and undernourished. He expressed derision by a sound like a short bark. He was continually rising to his feet—a matter of a few inches; and his big nose seemed to cleave the air as his voice, nasally cavernous, rose also.

Mr. Trancher listened with extreme attention. Their last adventure, at Puerto Sanchez, which lies east of Ceiba in Honduras, had been profitable, but something fresh would have to turn up if he and Jack were not going to work. He listened. And the more he listened, the better he liked the scheme. It was not that Jack disliked work. Jack would have gone cheerfully down

to the Levee and gotten a job. Jack had very little sense. Mr. Trancher knew that the way to get on was to let work alone and use his head. Moreover he was one of those men who cherish a genuine hatred of work. He knew his old mother in Bootle was proud of her son, who was so successful abroad. He wrote letters on hotel paper alluding to his large affairs, and the old lady showed them round to her neighbors. He could scheme, however; and as Mr. Brown, moistened by glasses of Madame Despard's cognac, poured forth his tale, Harry listened with a quick-working brain.

It was impossible to say whether Mr. Brown was aware of this interest. He seemed to need only a listener. Dressed in an old but aggressively clean linen suit, diminutive, humpshouldered, pigeon-breasted, smoking innumerable cigarettes and drinking glass after glass of cognac, he held forth to the sym-

pathetic Mr. Trancher.

"I have defended that man with my life!" he said more than once. "But for me he would have been begging his bread. Absolutely!"

"So you said before," remarked Mr. Trancher soothingly.

"Where's this place he took to living in?"
"The Villa San Agostino," said Mr. Brown, combing his mustache with an alarmingly long finger-nail. Seen on that nicotinestained finger, it was like a talon. "It is up the Bocas del Tenorio, north of Santiago de Cuba."

"And he paid you off? I can't understand that," said Harry

"Accepted my resignation," corrected Mr. Brown with a pompous air peculiar in one so small. "It was offered in the nature of a reprimand. I felt it my duty to call his attention to his way of life."

"Oh, way of life! I see, he's one of these old—"
"Absolutely," said Mr. Brown. "And under the circumstances I felt it my duty to-

"Oh, instead of paying off the lady, he gave you the sack?

Humph! Hard lines.

"He added insult to injury," said Mr. Brown. "He offered to continue my salary on condition that I left the Villa Agostino. Banished!

"Well, I wish somebody would insult me that way," muttered are Trancher, frowning and thinking very hard. "What are Harry Trancher, frowning and thinking very hard. "You complaining about? That's what I'd like to know."

"I have my pride, I suppose," snarled Mr. Brown, rising to his feet and sitting down again. "I would rather starve than take one peso from him now." He glared shrewdly at Mr. Trancher.

"Oh, of course. But listen. This old gentleman's pretty rich,

then?"

"Rich!" squeaked Brown, and he gave his short derisive bark. "Beyond the dreams of avarice. Due to me! If it hadn't been for me, he'd have been-

"And he lives all alone?"

"A couple of Cuban servants, who rob him right and left, and a chauffeur whom I caught practising his master's signature, to sign checks with. When I reported him, the old fool said he would enjoy Antoine's surprise when he presented the check and found the account closed.

"Oh, then he don't keep his money in a bank?" said Mr.

"In Paris, in a vault," barked Mr. Brown. "And in a strongroom in the Villa Agostino. Oh, the madness of it! Only he and I know the combination. Yet I've seen that long-legged body-snatcher Anastasia looking at the door of that room as though she could drill it with her eyes."

"Who's she?" asked Mr. Trancher.
"Oh, she's gone now," muttered Mr. Brown. "A tall girl. She had her day and ceased to be. Now-" And Mr. Brown's queru-

lous voice tailed off into silence.

"That was your work, I suppose," hinted his companion. Mr. Brown's bark became more than derisive. It was sardonic. To hear such a sound, like a detonation, come from so small a man, was surprising.

"For my sins, I suppose, yes. Better if I had left her alone.

And yet-

Harry Trancher glanced at the somnolent Jack Ferrell. this was nothing to Jack. He sized up Mr. Brown once more. "Ah," he said, "I see." He did not see, but he knew that

something would come of it if he only waited. Something did.

'Always before-" went on Mr. Brown, looking up beyond Madame Despard's roof to the Louisiana sky. It was a night in August, when the very stars seemed swollen with heat, and the



palm-fronds were motionless. "Always before, they had been like that Anastasia—from Paris and Monte Carlo. Old warriors
—café-chantant brigadiers. He had lived his life. Now he began

to look round. He saw something he wanted."

Mr. Trancher was not following. He knew there was something in all this useful to him, but the meaning was obscure.

Mr. Brown—ah, Mr. Brown! Now, what was there in Mr. Brown's tones to suggest a key to all this rumty-tum?

"Something special, eh?" he remarked casually, yet in a tone

that conveyed an experienced familiarity with special things. Mr. Brown, his mouth open and his pale eyes appearing large and vacant on either side of his big nose, might have been a fish in an aquarium, looking out at Mr. Trancher. He spoiled the illusion by uttering his short bark.

"A goddess!" he said contemptuously, and looked away. In the darkness the form of Señora Voight could be discerned across the patio, the glowing end of her cigar describing a short arc

in the gloom as she rocked to and fro.

The information caused Mr. Trancher's thoughts to swerve wildly. His mind swung to the edge of its normal runway and skittered over unfamiliar ground. "Ho!" he said to himself. "It's goddesses, now. Blimey!" He was farther away than ever. Old warriors and café-chantant brigadiers were translatable something Mr. Trancher could comprehend. But goddesses were

something else again.

"Peach, eh?" he offered tentatively. Peaches are not necessarily goddesses; but a goddess, Mr. Trancher thought, might come down to earth as a peach. Mr. Brown growled.

"Why, is he going to marry her?" demanded Mr. Trancher. Mr. Brown moved as if stung. He rose—sat down again.
"He is. And he will then be a dead man within a few hours,"

he said in a hollow tone.

You mean she's going to bump him off like that? He's that Mr. Trancher stared and fell into a flabinfatuated he don't-" bergasted silence.

"She will be the richest widow in Cuba," said Mr. Brown, and



he put another cigarette into his long holder. "It is a plot, and he is too—as you say—infatuated to see it. It was because I warned him that I found it necessary to resign. She has a lover." "Who's she?" asked the mystified Mr. Trancher. "Oh, can the girl he's going to marry. The goddess, eh? H'm! "Oh, you

mean the girl he's going to marry. It occurred to him that this behavior, though it might seem outrageous to Señor Brown, was in character. Harry Trancher had won a scholarship when he was thirteen. He had had two years at a grammar-school in Liverpool. Waste of time, in his opinion. But he recalled the habits of goddesses. He pondered. A strong-room in the Villa Agostino! And this shrimp—
Suddenly Harry Trancher got up and began pacing to and fro.

He became aware of Señora Voight's cigar glowing in the darkness where she sat in her rocking-chair. Madame Despard's hints became clear. There was something in the air between Señora Voight and Señor Brown. Madame Despard had said, "Señor Brown, he should have some one to look after him," and Harry had imagined she was sweet on that pompous little scarecrow herself. No, he and Jack were keeping the Señora away from her new fancy.

it worth while."
"I thought perhaps the Señora had

"Yes, Señor Brown also loves this creature."

The poor

"Caramba!" exclaimed Mr. Trancher mildly.

"Yes. That is a fact. Another infatuation. She he says. Marvelous! Divine! Pooh! A Lorelei." She has a voice,

"Ah, well, how would you say a man of resource and courage could do anything with such a problem? It sounds prickly to

"More than it is. You have a small town in the canefields. Merchants go there to sell goods. Her lover travels in jewelry. Strangers go in and out without remark. The Villa Agostino is just outside. There are ships and a sugar-mill. The railway runs as far as Maravilla, across the bay."

as far as Maravilla, across the bay."

You have an interest in Señor

You have an interest in Señor

"Señora, you seem to know— You have an interest in Señor Brown? Well, that is a fine idea. I myself, now—would you say Madame Despard could do with a little capital in her busi-

ness here? A sleeping partner?"
"More than possible," returned Señora Voight. "A man of resource and courage could do a lot that way, if he had the little If he had the little capital. And they say this Don Sebastian

has more than a little?"

"Seventy million bolivars at least."

"Por Diós!" And he leaned his head on his hand.

"There must be a way. I think my friend and I will be going through this Cabanes very soon," he added.

"Go with God, señor. Only, come back to New Orleans."
"Of course. With the little capital. Speak a good word for "Of course. me, Señora."

THAT night Trancher carried on a whispered conversation with Jack Ferrell after they were in bed, each concealed from the other beneath a ghostly mosquito-bar depending from the tall ceiling. It was almost a monologue, for Jack was in one of those silent dreamy moods of his, which usually preceded his disap-pearance for a few days. Mr. Trancher was in dread of one of these outbreaks in New Orleans. He wished to get away from

"What's your hurry?" asked Jack.
"Don't you set that netting on fire," warned Harry. hurry's this, Jack! That commandante in jail up in Tegucigalpa, when he comes out, he'll be looking for blood. There's a couple when he comes out, he'll be looking for blood. of Hondurans here in this house now. I don't trust anybody too far. This thing looks big, and I'll need you, you know. . . . You aren't asleep, are you? Well, now, just listen to me: There's a boat leaves here for Santiago on Saturday. Passenger-boat. We'll get a job spud-skinning, I guess. It's only three days.
We'll sling our hooks there and make for Maravilla."
"We'll get our heads bashed in," mumbled Jack.
"You've got head-bashing on the brain," remarked Harry.
"Why can't you pull yourself together and think of something

cheerful?"

He listened a moment. There was no sound-only a violent

trembling of the other bed.

There now, there now!" said Harry, stretching out his hand. "I'm only joking, Jack. Forget it. Hey! Stop it, can't you?"
He leaped out of bed, and pouring some ice-water over a towel,
put it over the other man's head. "Now then! Is that better? put it over the other man's head. I'm here, you silly fool!"

It had been the same after the Puerto Sanchez affair. Jack had whimpered like a puppy. The Struma Valley had been too much for Jack. He dreamed even now of what he had seen

there. Woke up screaming sometimes.

Harry soothed him and got back under his netting.

"It's a job where we've got to have tact. You know what

tact is, Jack, don't you?"

Harry listened. There was a faint humming under the net next to him. Jack was all right again. He was trying to sing. Harry smiled. An old comic opera song of their youth:

"Tact, tact, take it for a fact!
If you kiss the tradesman's baby,
You will find that it will act.
You can do a lot of things with
Tact, tact, tact!"

"There you are," he said. "Well, that's our middle name when we get to Cabanes. Don't say you wont come, Jack. You aren't asleep, are you? Eh? What? Oh! Of course we'll come back here. What do you want to come back for?"

There was a giggling sound from Jack.

"Oh, I see. Jack, you're a fast worker. But don't forget. Saturday we sail for Cabanes."

ABANES was a sugar port built out on a spit projecting from CABANES was a sugar port built out on a specific of the farther side of a small landlocked lagoon. It was practice the farther side of a small landlocked lagoon. It was practice that the trees tically inland. The sterns of sugar-ships crashed into the trees and bushes on the banks of the channel leading into that lagoon when they took the bends with the rudder hard over. A little farther to the eastward of Cabanes was San Agostino, on another little cape, where the officials had made a sort of residential suburb, connected with the town by a road round the curve of the bay.

It was a place, this Cabanes, where work never stopped save for a couple of months at the end of the season, and then they worked harder than ever, getting ready for the harvesting of the cane. The huge gaunt mill, Cabanes Central, with its ten tall stacks like the teeth of a black comb, stood up against the sky and dominated everything around. It was the heart of the dis-Through its mighty ventricles and auricles pulsed the lifeblood of Cabanes, the muddy-looking liquor of the giant crushers. You heard them far away, through the night, uttering their heavy inexorable grunt and whine. The windows of the mill shook as they shone with the fleeting blue-white radiance of arc-lights high over the machinery. The spokes of great flywheels swung radial and enormous shadows across the palm trees lining the track to the offices. The trainloads of cane came jangling in, heralded by interminable squeals from an invisible locomotive far beyond the level crossing. Brakemen swung lanterns in rhythmic arcs, and a bell on the crossing-gates snarled a warning to drunken boiler-men who were trying to crawl over the grinding couplers.

Cabanes, in short, was a little segment of North America set down on the edge of vast rolling fields of cane. hour shifts and the brains of many scientists produced twice a month the cargo to fill the sugar-ship which squirmed through the Bocas del Tenorio and tied up at the Central Jetty. thousand men, black, white, brown and yellow, with their women and children, dwelt in the streets of wooden shanties at the back of the spit, where the land melted into black ooze and canebrakes whence came the booming of frogs and the thin, terrifying music of mosquitoes. A squat sand-sucker lay at the end of a long snaky flume and pumped sludge behind lines of wired

Meanwhile, there was much of what might be called "perdition" in the streets just beyond the soppy foreshore back of the spit. The crews of the sugar-ships would go in there, and the Cuban policemen would do the rest. Welcome clubs, each consisting of a canvas booth with a tungsten lamp over the door and a screened back-portion, offered the fast worker a chance to be cleaned out. Saloons with mechanical pianos, whose keys cachinnated under a glass case like the teeth of a death's-head, offered whisky of detonating potency. Women so awful in their hungry squalor that they darkened their cabins and sat out in the humid night, waited for the men who came weaving in and out of the wooden colonnades of Front Street. Now and again, past the insistent scuffle of the dance-hall floors and the glare of the saloons, a Chinaman would pass, with his long slitted eyes watchful for the wallet-snatcher and the out-thrust boot of the lordly white man with a sense of humor. Chinese boys, like ivory statues endowed with an alluring yet sexless vitality, could be seen in the mill, scooping the amber crystals from the centrifugals. Cabanes was Cosmopolis on a small scale, like a drop of dirty water seen through a microscope, strange, awful, interesting and full of corruption.

BUT the village of San Agostino was the exact opposite of this. It was like a little heaven. And at the far side of the cape, with no sign of commerce in view save the ruby light of

the oil-jetty at night, was the Villa Agostino.

The Villa had no connection with the rest of the world. was rather a mansion, full of immense salas and reverberating corridors. A French millionaire, so they said, had built it for his own declining years. Another story had it that he had been the agent for a European monarch whose throne was tottering and who proposed to slip away and spend his period of abdica-tion in this remote seclusion. So the tales went to and fro over the dinner-tables on the double-screened verandas of the Cabanes officials in San Agostino. The royalty theory was supported by the tall conical chimney of the Villa Agostino, designed to carry off the fumes from scores of charcoal ranges set in the blue-andivory porcelain of the kitchen. But the place stood empty for The European monarch was still perched on his tottery And then Señor Don Rafael Sebastian José Canafístolo materialized, and a reign of ravishing scandal ensued.

The Señor was elderly and apparently extremely wealthy. was small, with a trim gray Napoleon and an upstanding brush of white hair. He dressed principally in gray alpaca and was attended by another smaller man with a large nose, also in alpaca, who sat forward in the carriage as though ready to spring at the throat of any venturesome mendicant. This was Mr. Brown, Señor Brown, B. A. St. John's College, Oxford, England, graduate of Latin-American affairs. He was viceroy, steward, seneschal, secretary, paymaster, major-domo and adjutant-general. Ladies arriving from Ventimiglia, where Señor Don Canafistolo had a villa on the Riviera, were met in Havana by Señor Brown and convoyed, with a minimum of conversation, to the Villa Stores were purchased by Señor Brown in Santiago and brought round in the yacht scandalously called the Messalina. When the ladies gave battle to each other in some distant wing of the place, as they sometimes did (being elemental creatures and not always very well educated), Señor Brown separated them and, if necessary, paid them off. To tell the truth, he liked the job. It gratified his opinion of himself to see so much wickedness flaunting amid the tropical vegetation-it contrasted well (Continued on page 96) with his own incorruptible integrity.



The Professional Friend steps forth again in another of Mr. Scott's unique detective stories, in which the astute Clifford causes those he is "after" to work out their own undoing. No tales this magazine has ever published have won higher praise than these—and here is quite the best, so far.

CLIFFORD shook hands with General Thorne and Judge Foster, and with a bow acknowledged their introduction to the slight young woman half lost in the luxury of a great carved Italian Renaissance bed, her strained white face with its shorn red hair looking a frightened exotic flower against the background of her apple-green sheets and pillows.

ground of her apple-green sheets and pillows.

"Mr. Clifford," she panted in a whisper of crazed eagerness, her violet eyes clutching at him with desperate hope, "General Thorne and Judge Foster have just told me the wonderful things you've done in helping other people out of their troubles. By acting as their friend! Oh, if you could only be such a friend to me!"

"Clifford, Mrs. Winthrop certainly needs your friendship if ever a woman did," said General Thorne when the three men were seated beside the bed. "Margerie's situation should perhaps

be a police case, but she wont let it be. So I'm not here as Commissioner of Police; I'm here as her former guardian and her present friend. Judge Foster is her attorney, was her father's attorney, and is also her loving friend. Margerie has told us everything. Together we have gone over her situation most carefully, and we are baffled and helpless. So we want to turn the affair over to you."

"Be assured I'll do my best," said Clifford, "-both for Mrs. Winthrop's sake, and the sake of two such good old friends as you and Judge Foster."

"Thanks-oh, thanks!" breathed Margerie Winthrop.

"Since this can't be a police case, it's more in Judge Foster's line, so he'll do the talking for both of us. When you're through here, Clifford, I'd like to have you see me."

"Clifford, I suppose you know something about the marriage of Margerie and Jefferson Winthrop?" began the white-haired attorney, gently taking one of the slim hands from the bed.

"Only what I've read in the papers."

"Dazzling romance of two darlings of fortune—every girl's fairy-story come blissfully true—and so forth and so forth. Clifford, all that stuff you've read is sheerest Sunday paper bunk!" snorted the Judge. "To understand Margerie's case, you've got to understand the two people, for the present case really grows out of their own characters; so before I tell you Margerie's trouble, I'm going to tell you the truth behind the newspapers' fairy-tales. And if much of it sounds like a dull lecture, it's necessary to the story.

"Clifford, the true story of their marriage is the exact reverse

"The leader recognized Margerie, called her by name and gave her his best wishes for a honeymoon with a gentleman not her husband."

of the glittering story of today's socalled flaming youth-it's the inside story that most people never know exists. Flaming youth and what came of it, that's Margerie's situation. I love Margerie and Jeff; at bottom they are both dear, fine people; but they are two of the craziest fools this new generation of youth has yet produced.

"Perhaps I'm very old-fashioned, but here's how an old lawyer, who's had to untangle a lot of this new generation's troubles, sees the new generation; anyhow, this is the truth in the concrete case of Margerie and Jeff. They've both grown up on youth's creed of freedom for the individual-that whatever instinct urges is right—there shall be no restraint upon the right of the individual to do as he or she may please. They've put into practice in their everyday personal lives essentially the same principles as the anarchists have advanced as a theory of government. I'm not asking you to agree with my brief, Clifford, but do you follow me?"

"Yes. Go on, Judge."

"With such a preparation flaming youth, in the persons of Margerie and Jeff, gets married. Now, a successful marriage requires some yielding or compromise of individual rights and impulses in order to attain a joint harmony. But these dear fools have never learned the slightest thing about the rights of others, or of any necessity of controlling their egos in order to insure their own greater happiness. Married, they've kept on being two untrammeled modern souls, living according to their code of the free and complete individual.

"That may sound ideal. But there's a catch to this ideal of flam-But ing youth. Human nature is that catch. While Margerie and Jeff kept on, each doing as they damned pleased in the name of the new liberty of the individual, there was springing up in them the old-fashioned human instinct of the mate to possess its mate, for they loved each other. So there developed in them the contradiction of

each wanting to be free, and each wanting to own the other, body and soul. Since they had no experience in giving in, none in self-discipline, none in controlling their tempers, they didn't know how to handle this strange new development within themselves.

"Clifford, this marriage of Margerie and Jeff which newspaper romance has proclaimed as heaven's perfect marriage, has in reality been a cat-and-dog hell! Quarrels—quarrels! Over what? On the one hand, the rights of the free ego; on the other, their uncontrolled tempers and the insane jealousy of their



all-demanding love-there's cause and explanation enough! Three times in their one year of marriage Jeff has left Margerie. The third time was two weeks ago. He has been staying out at their Long Island summer place; and though he's been coming in daily to attend to his business, she hasn't heard from him since. Margerie, isn't this a fairly accurate statement of the situation between you and Jeff?"

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ve

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'I don't know about the cause, but that's how things have been and are," came a thin whisper from the bed.

"Clifford, I call this a basic situation made to order for tragic



trouble—a common situation, too. The trouble which has developed from that situation! —You'd better tell what comes next, General, for it's a police story even if you can't handle it." "You've seen the warnings the Police Department has been giving out, Clifford, urging women not to wear jewelry to the night-clubs?" began General Thorne.
"Certainly. You've been telling the public that in this golden era of the hold-up man in New York City, a woman who wears expensive jewelry to a night-club and who comes home at two or three or four o'clock in the morning, is thereby extending an

or three or four o'clock in the morning, is thereby extending an

invitation to bandits to follow her and help themselves to her

jewelry."

"Just so. It's a mighty big problem these fool women and their jewelry offer the police. Despite all the hold-ups of women, their jewelry offer the police. Despite all the hold-ups of women, despite all our warnings, women still flock to the night-clubs with fortunes sparkling on them. Margerie, here, has been one of the fools who has suffered. Last week she wore about a hundred thousand dollars' worth of assorted jewelry to a night-club—Jeff's wedding present to her, things that had belonged to his mother. They were taken from Margerie by bandits."



nor did Judge Foster. Clifford, it's something far more serious than the loss of the jewels that is Margerie's worry."

"Yes, yes!" agonizedly put in young Mrs. Winthrop. "Except—except for the way the jewels were taken, I wouldn't be afraid!"

"What I now tell you is in substance Margerie's story as she has told it," continued General Thorne. "Being an independent ego, she was not going to let Jeff think his absence was making her sit at home and cry-particularly when Jeff has been playing around with Arline Sinclair, the actress, who seems to play as many leading rôles in the divorce-court as in the theater. You know Miss Sinclair?"

"Very well." "Perhaps Jeff's playing with Miss Sinclair has been just a defiant gesture at Margerie. She replied to him with a similar She has been going out almost nightly to the nightclubs with Harold Gates, an old admirer on whom Jeff's new jealousy had centered itself. Last Thursday they were dancing at the Purple Peacock. It was a warm night; they became tired of the music; and they agreed to motor out to the Gray Goose

Inn on Long Island for the sake of the fresh air and an hour of dancing. Both had had several drinks during the evening, and they had another just before the start. Margerie says she doesn't remember a thing from the time they crossed East River until she awakened in a situation which at first she did not understand.

"Here was the situation. The time was between four and five. She was in a private room in the Gray Goose Inn; with her was Harold Gates. There were bottles and glasses on a table. What had aroused Margerie had been the entrance of three masked bandits. The bandit leader stripped Margerie of her jewels, examined them and gloatingly remarked that they certainly were a haul worth trailing the lady from the Purple Peacock. Then the leader recognized Margerie, called her by name, and facetiously gave her his best wishes for her happiness



on this honeymoon with a handsome gentleman not her husband. Then he backed out.

"Harold Gates drove her home. He could not be sorry enough for the loss of her jewels. In his own extenuation he reminded her that she had agreed to go out to the Gray Goose with him, which she had-and that when he had suggested their taking a room, she also had agreed to that. About this last Margerie claims to remember nothing.

"The shock of the experience so crumpled Margerie that she had to take to her bed. For four days she lived in an agony of fear and suspense, not knowing what to do, not daring to tell a soul. Last night the blow fell. I wonder, Clifford, if you cannot figure out the rest of Margerie's story for yourself?" "I imagine it runs something like this, General Thorne: Last

night Mrs. Winthrop had a message from the bandit leader to

the effect that she could buy back her jewels at several times their value. If she didn't choose to pay the mentioned price, the bandits would acquaint Mr. Winthrop with the details of a certain scene at the Gray Goose Inn, which information would affect a polestic being the comparison of the comparison would be compared to the comparison of the comp formation would afford a splendid basis for a divorce-suit to an already jealous and alienated husband."

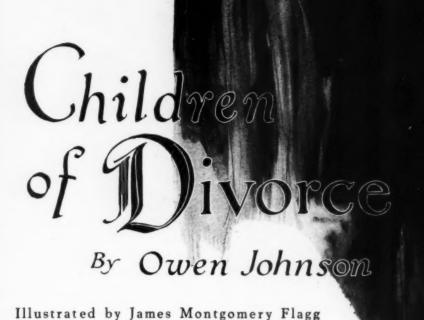
"Exactly, Clifford. The price that ban-dit leader asks is a quarter of a million

"Ransom money for a woman's folly," epitomized Clifford. "General, I've been expecting, and you must have been expecting, just such a new development in the thriving business of the jewel-bandits you've been giving warnings about. The

night-clubs, with jewel-laden women going home at all hours and escorted by men not their husbands, offer too obvious and rich an opportunity for clever crooks not to have seen and seized it. If a bandit robs one of these women in the usual stick-up way, he runs the danger of arrest and has to sell his loot to a fence at a fraction of its value. But if he watches his chance and robs the woman when she is in a compromising situation, he is safe from arrest and he can sell the jewels back to their owner at any price he chooses to fix. Banditry plus blackmail-an ideal combination from the bandit's point of view. That idea is good enough to be organized into a big criminal business, and unless I'm wrong, this case of Mrs. Winthrop is no more than a single instance of how this big business is being

"So I believe myself, and it's a condition I'd like to clean up. But such cases are not reported to the (Continued on page 120)

WEN JOHNSON has transferred himself and his golf-clubs from the Berkshires to the Riviera. where he will demonstrate the technique that develops on a course where the hazards are lakes, rivers and mountains. He will remain abroad until spring. returning to America in time to receive the present novel in book form damp from the press-and to bring back with him another well under way.



The Story So Far:

O Jean Waddington, marriage was something very real, very vital, something about which she must make no mistake. she had suffered much from those who had looked upon marriage as something casual, who had made mistakes: her father and mother. They had been divorced, Jean's father and mother, when she was a little girl, and each had remarried; and as neither was minded to give her up to the other, she had been brought up in a convent in Italy.

At fourteen Jean had come back to America, and on the boat she had met and liked Ted Larrabee-big, good-humored, sincere and serious-minded then. And Ted too was a child of divorce, for Colonel Larrabee's political enemies had "framed him" with a chorus-girl scandal, and his mother had seized the excuse.

Jean went first to her father-and found her stepmother impossible. And her own mother, now Mrs. Chastaine, had no desire to have her style in flirtation cramped by the presence of an all-but-grown-up daughter. So Jean finished her education in boarding-schools well away from her parents.

It was long before Jean saw Ted Larrabee again, for the war

intervened and he enlisted at once with the Canadian forces. And

he had come home a different Ted, eager for relaxation, his serious young ambitions to be a great engineer forgotten. When he proposed to Jean, she put him off: she must make no mistake in her marriage. Other suitors, moreover, especially the attorney Daggett, were usually in evidence. And then—Jean's father died, leaving almost his entire great fortune to her.

Ted helped her nobly through the trying days of her father's illness and death, but when it was all over, he drew away, spent his time with gay companions like Charley Lancaster and Kitty Flanders. Pride held him from appearing as a fortune-hunter; and the responsibilities of wealth preoccupied Jean to an extent. Finally, when Jean tried to reawaken his old ambitions, a break came. "I will never understand that you could love me and say such things!" Jean protested.

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make weal

Sfax



"My dear, if all your countrywomen were as charming as you, there would be too many old maids in France."

IT was about a month after Jean's arrival in Paris that Miss Fingall came to take her on a round of visits in the Faubourg St. Germain, where, back of towering and sculptured doorways which close upon the curiosity of the passer-by, the old unreconciled aristocracies still cling to the memory of former glories.

The stage had long been carefully prepared by the worldly-wise old lady for the first act in one of those comedies of international society of which the world sees nothing but the dénouement. After a visit or two to houses of old tradition and charming interiors, which would mask her real object and not awaken the suspicions of her quarry, she had arranged to bring her protégée to tea at the famous hôtel of the Princess de Sfax.

To determine the invitation, it had taken days of careful planning and investigation. For the De Sfaxes possessed one of the few legitimate titles of Prince, carried with it the right to be addressed as Your Highness, and were allied by marriage to the Bourbons and the royal houses of Austria and Sweden.

Despite reverses the family still clung to its feudal domain in Provence, with a château that dated from Henry II, a magnificent park and villa on the Riviera, and the great hôtel in the Rue de Grenelle with its undepleted treasures of art and history. To maintain at

least the outward semblance of the style which such a position called for had required miracles of saving and abnegation. Instead of the score of brilliant entertainments which the Hôtel de Sfax had seen each year before the Great War, the historic gates, with the bas-relief by Jean Goujons, remained hermetically closed. Once a year—and to do this what prodigies of scrimping and planning had to be performed!—the great courtyard was displayed, the famous gardens were illuminated with many colored lanterns, flunkies swarmed like rats in carefully preserved historic liveries, and all Paris crowded reverently to the most distinguished social event of the season.

The Prince Ludovic was a serious young man of twenty-eight who had inherited the scientific tastes of his late father, author of several books of travel, member of many international

Ted went his way, which was the way of bad company. Sometime later Jean came to feel that she had been too hasty and that Larrabee was the only man for her. She wrote him to come to her; but when he finally appeared, it was to confess that after a drunken party, on a dare, he had married Kitty Flanders. Already he repented—protested he would have the marriage annulled. But Jean despite her own grief insisted that he keep his hargain.

In search of distraction, Jean went to Paris a year later to visit her cousin the Countess Kittery. And presently that unique personage Miss Fingall, a sort of professional sub rosa matchmaker, saw the possibilities of promoting an alliance between the wealthy Jean Waddington and the so-noble young Prince de Sfax. (The story continues in detail:)

scientific societies. The son had served in the war with distinction and bravery, had won the Médaille Militaire, the Croix de Guerre and was already an officer in the Legion of Honor. Contrary to what might have been expected of him, his bachelor life had not been spent in dissipation. He had not gambled any large sums of money at Monte Carlo or Deauville, or impoverished himself for a coryphée of the opera. He was only known to have one ligison, a romance which had begun during the war at the hospital where a Mme. Laleu, a young widow of good bourgeois family and quiet tastes, had nursed him back to life and responded to his awakened love. Some such attachment was of course to be expected, with his youth and temperament. His family were not in ignorance and regarded it without alarm, knowing well that at the proper moment a young man who bore the title of the Prince de Sfax would realize the duty he owed to his name and the sacrifices of his family.

The time had now arrived, as Miss Fingall very well knew, when such an economic necessity could not be long postponed. In the last difficult years the old Princess had been forced to borrow to the sum of many millions of francs. was ample, the assets recognizable; back of the art treasures and the great forests and farms was the matrimonial value of the heir. With such a title there could be no difficulty in arranging a match that would clear away all encumbrances and restore the splendor of olden days. Once or twice in the last year the subject had been broached, but the young Prince, in order to gain time, avoiding a flat refusal, had successfully raised certain well-founded objections as to the honorability of the fortune proposed and the personal charm of the young ladies in question.

ON the day before the projected visit of Miss Waddington and Miss Fingall, the old Princess was seated with her brother in the little yellow damask sitting-room which she used when it was advisable to keep closed the great flights of salons in the main building. She was balanced rather stiffly in a high-backed fauteuil of the Louis XIII period where Anne of Austria might have sat, a slender distinguished woman with a high-bridged nose, rigid in the severity of the dark gown which had only recently replaced the mourning she had worn in the memory of a son, two nephews and a brother—morts pour la patrie. The Princess Angelique, her sister-in-law, a large, dumpy, vacant personality, full of smiling helpfulness, who had renounced marriage and the enjoyment of her personal fortune for the greater glory of the house, was completing a little water-color which could be sold at ten times its value for the benefit of a worthy charity

"Eh bien, Alexis-and your investigation?" the Princess de Sfax was saying at this moment to her brother, the Duke de Gondre-

"My dear excellent Boucher reports the fortune at fifteen to twenty millions."

"Dollars?" "Of course."

"That makes three hundred million francs," said the Princess Angelique with a contented air.

"And the family?"

"One of the best in America." The Duke spoke in a cracked, nasal voice, pleased with the importance of the tidings he bore. Thin like his sister, dressed like an old beau of the Second Empire, a loosely drawn spotted black necktie, a broadcloth morning-jacket and voluminous nankin trousers of a liver-colored complexion, he was like a monument commemorating the fashion that passed with the Café des Anglais, the select foyer of the opera, and the salons of Lola Montez and Clara Ward. A man of unapproachable taste in all matters of etiquette, cited as a pattern of conduct, who had never failed after "closing the shop," as the expression was in the old days of aristocratic pleasure, to rise at eleven and take luncheon with his mother. "There is nothing against the fortune, then?"

"Not the slightest."
"Nor the family?"

"The parents are divorced."

The Princess shrugged her shoulders. "That was of course to be expected."

"Protestant?" inquired the Princess Angelique, looking up.
"You will convert her, my dear Angelique," said the Duke,

laughing. "Not a very difficult operation nowadays."

"Fifteen millions," said the Princess de Sfax meditatively.

"This time Vico must listen to reason. —And the young person?"

"They say she is charming."

"In that case, my dear sister, if I may be permitted to offer some advice, raise one point at a time. Let the young lady

do her part in arranging matters."

"I have invited her to tea day after tomorrow."

"Excellent." He stroked his chin reflectively. "By the way, how does the proposition come to us?"

"Miss Fingall—you know her?"
"Who doesn't know her? A little commission, then?"

"But naturally."

Lunch was announced, and the young Prince Ludovic appeared, kissing the hand of his aunt and mother with the same ceremonious respect with which in other days at the entrance of his father he had sprung to his feet. He was slight, not very tall, finely bred in the harmonious proportions of his body, thin wrists and ankles, the slender high-bridged nose of the Gondrevilles and the tawny hair of the De Sfaxes, rising in a stiff cropped obstinate surge from a thoughtful open forehead and defining the firm compression of the rather full lips by a faint mustache twisted into points. The eyes were of a clear gray, feline in suggestion, direct, willful, and with a suggestion of a slumbering tempest. The voice was rather high-pitched, the bearing military; in dress he affected the English.
"My son," said the Princess when the coffee had announced

the moment for a serious discussion, "you will give me the pleasure of taking tea with me on Friday afternoon at six o'clock."

He glanced from his mother to the serious face of his uncle and the telltale smile of the Princess Angelique. A family council.

"Well, who is it this time?" he said impatiently.

The Princess de Sfax appealed mutely to her brother, who began with a light diplomacy:
"My dear nephew, it is no question of marrying you off

tomorrow, but you will admit that the question of your marriage is one of legitimate concern to your family?"

The young nobleman was silent a moment, playing with his cup. Then he raised eyes full of reproach to his mother.

"Voyons, ma mère, is this all the affection you have for me? I am only twenty-eight; I have done five years of war. Haven't

I the right to a little time of freedom? Is it so unreasonable for me to wish to wait until I am thirty?"

"And have you stopped to think that your mother and your aunt, my dear nephew, have done fifteen years of privations to maintain you where you are today?" said the Duke de Gondre-But instantly relaxing into a smile he added: ville sharply. To consider the possibilities of a proper marriage for you is not to shut you up immediately in a monastery.

"You admit that it is only just that you should marry early,

Ludovic?"

AT the gentleness of his mother's query, he flushed slightly.

"Pardon, ma mère, I do know all you have gone through." Reflecting that the impatience into which he had been betrayed was a tactical blunder, he controlled himself and added quietly: "Yes, of course, I know what is expected of me. Only I have certain well-defined ideas on the subject."

"Bien-très bien! And what are those ideas?"
"My dear uncle," said the Prince Ludovic, looking at him with slightly dissimulated irony, "you will admit that I am not a farçeur, that I have contented myself with a reasonable income and that I have no intention to seek in marriage the opportunity of throwing my money out of the window."

"Va ton train, mon ami, say what you have to say," responded

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the old Duke, smiling.

I have no intention, then, when I marry, of dissipating a fortune or taking on a dozen mistresses-pardon, ma tante! And"-here he laid a forefinger authoritatively on the table-"and I have no intention of marrying a person who is likely to make my name a source of scandal all over Paris, like Edmond and Carolus and twenty others."

"But my dear boy, I approve-"

"You may approve, my dear mother, but I must be the judge. I am not a Count Fackstone or a Baron Grenaldi. I am the Prince de Sfax, and when a Prince de Sfax marries, he has a right to everything.'

"Such as-

"In the first place, no question as to the honorability of the fortune."

"In the matter of family, no vulgar parvenues. I want not simply a fortune, but a fortune and a wife-a wife that I can respect and live with."



Jean knew now that the Prince Ludovic would declare himself. She awaited his declaration without emotion.

"He is right," exclaimed the Princess Angelique, who was incurably sentimental.

"Angelique! Don't interrupt," said the Duke with a shrug of

"In the matter of health-"

"She must be as sound as a horse," exclaimed the Duke, interrupting with a laugh.

Exactly. I want my children to be strong, healthy and sane." "My dear son, you can trust me, your mother, I hope, to consider her grandchildren," interposed the Princess.

"I want a wife that I can see with pleasure, that I can present with a feeling of pride, that I don't need to apologize for, that it is easy to remain faithful to. I don't want anyone with beetle brows, or a hair-lip, or a squint, or who is ignorant or a bore or a gawk, or has a dowdy awkward figure. I want my wife charming, graceful, distinguished, intelligent, with high standards of conduct, religious principles and personal dignity."

"In other words, he wants the moon!" exclaimed the Duke de

Gondreville, who understood perfectly well that his nephew had

been describing Mme. Laleu.

The young prince, deceived by the exclamation, interpreted it to mean that the person in the shadows was open to some of his objections. Consequently, with a feeling of security, he smiled his really charming smile, and remarked:

"And I shall find her, my dear uncle, without having to make

a trip to the moon—only it takes time, it takes time."
"You realize, of course, mon fils, that the first essential is the question of the fortune.'

A shadow passed over his face.

"I realize it only too well."

"A very great fortune-and that the only way we can proceed is by examining what fortunes are eligible.

"Naturally. So the young lady is a great heiress?"
"Twenty to thirty million francs—a year," said the Duke with lingering hiatus. "Where will you find that in France, in your a lingering hiatus. own position in life?"

"An American, then?"

"Yes.

"You have seen her?"

"We haven't seen her yet."

More and more reassured, determined to play out his part of willing but exigent Benedict, the Prince resumed:

"I warn you on the subject of Americans. I am very difficult. I am afraid of them. The young girls know more than our married women, and when they marry here, the devil is the best man. Well, well, I'll look over your little American Friday at six. Are you satisfied with me now, Mother?"

He took her hand and looked down into her eyes with the smile of a mischievous boy secure in the agility of his imagination. "Merci, mon fils."

"Only if she is the type we know only too well—cigarette-smoking, slangy, or if she has a disagreeable voice, or any one of a hundred things, don't go any farther."

"You shall look her over," said the Princess quietly.

"And you'll do nothing unless I give you the signal," stipulated the young man.

"Agreed! But you in your turn will be honest, my son!"

"Oh, I give you my word," said the Prince, who didn't like Americans.

In all this discussion there was not of course the slightest question of the intentions of the lady under discussion.

"What is she like, at least?" asked the Duke de Gondreville when they were alone

"I haven't the slightest idea."

"She will have to be a paragon to pass the test."

"Ludovic will be very willful," said the old Princess. "All that he has said was simply to gain time."

"He is something of a diplomat."

"That affair with Mme, Laleu still keeps up?" inquired the Princess. "Always."

AT precisely six o'clock on the appointed afternoon the elegant limousine of the Countess Kittery brought Miss Fingall and Jean to the Hôtel de Sfax in the quiet unchanging Rue de Grenelle. Between

the two an agreeable intimacy had developed. That Miss Fingall had serious designs of marrying her off in a brilliant match Jean was amusedly aware, though she was far from ascribing to it any other motive than the sentimental proclivity toward match-making characteristic of elderly unmarried women. Miss Fingall had set out to win her interest and confidence with as much assiduity as a determined lover versed in worldly knowledge might have displayed. Under her protection the young girl had been able to penetrate into homes seldom open to a foreigner, homes richly stored with family traditions, where all the incomparably dramatic history of France unfolded itself to her curiosity.

Miss Fingall knew to her finger-tips the legends, the scandals and the romances of each family, and only when she was satisfied with the effect on her imagination of this colorful procession of historic figures, did she bring her to her destination with a sure, dramatic sense of her climax. quet

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The outer gates were shut; but when the footman had announced their names, they swung open and closed behind the car. Miss Fingall, who understood the signal honor thus accorded, smiled contentedly. She noted everything—the two footmen in livery at the gates, the four footmen and the major-domo in the anteroom; and knowing the ordinary economy of the household, approved with a little malicious enjoyment the feminine imagination which had prepared the scene.

"Don't forget to curtsey to the Princess, my dear," she said hastily before they descended. "She is a great stickler on eti-





"He is unhappy. He still loves me." Two thoughts, filling her being with terror and a swift cruel ecstasy.

Jean curtsied in turn, feeling sud-denly awkward and out of breath, as had rememshe bered being at the school commencement when she had been called to the stage.

She felt the room held a thousand eyes, and yet only three persons were in it: the Princess Angelique, who greeted her kindly, and the Duke de Gondreville, who complimented her formally on her French. Why were they watching her so intently? Did they think Ameri-cans were a species of savage? Being ill at ease, she sat down on a sofa, folded her hands in her lap, and became interested in the family portraits.

The Princess de ax, having fin-Sfax, ished the ceremonial round of inquiries with Miss Fingall, turned in her direction.

"May I offer you a cup of tea?"

'Two lumps, and cream-yes. thanks," Jean said hastily, wondering if she had transwondering gressed etiquette.

The Princess Angelique had retired to her em-broidery. The Duke was watching her across his cigarette.

Notice the panels by Tiepolo in the hall. They are remarkably fine.

They were ushered down a long corridor, past dim suits of armor, and announced.

"Mlle. Fingall, Mlle. Waddington."

A vast long room stretching toward French windows and a flash of green garden beyond, a ceiling that was lost in the high obscurity, a great thousand-pointed crystal luster impending in a prevailing atmosphere of red and gold. Miss Fingall was ahead curtseying to a tall, gaunt lady who was looking at Jean with a sharp intentness.

"Votre Altesse, permit me to present my young friend Mlle. Waddington."

"This is not your first visit to us, surely?"

"I passed through here as a child, a few days only." She was conscious of a mistake in grammar and shifted un-Miss Fingall came to the rescue.

"Mademoiselle was at the Santissima Annunciata in Florence," "Really? Very interesting. Then you speak Italian?"
"A little, madame, but I've forgotten a great deal."

"You are staying here with the Countess Kittery?"

"Yes, madame."

"She is your cousin, I believe Miss Fingall told me." "My cousin, yes."

Stretches and stretches of such conversation with an occasional interlude by the Duke. Jean could not explain it to herself, this A consultation with great difference of opinion, but Monsieur's authority prevailing.

sudden ill-ease and diffidence. She felt that she was being invited to talk, to display herself, and feeling this, closed up like an oyster.

"What a gawk I am making of myself! Why are they so stiff? There are so many interesting things I should like to ask about.'

The doors opened, and the Prince Ludovic came in.

"At last some one young I can talk to," she thought, watching with approval the ease of his entrance. She was interested in the punctilious way in which he kissed his mother's hand. It struck her as incongruous at first, and then she rather liked it. He stood opposite her, bowing, saying in excellent English:

'Mademoiselle, it is a pleasure to meet you.

But the look belied the words. What occasioned it? He looked at her, and she saw that he was surprised. this sudden feeling of hostil-She had hoped that he would remain by her, but in-stead he passed over to his uncle, shook hands, and lighting a cigarette, went to the great fireplace opposite, leaned one arm on the mantel, and studied her as he smoked.

The Princess de Sfax exchanged looks with her brother, and resumed the stilted conversation. If anything, the fog of formality settled down heavier and chillier than There was a feeling of ever. something suspended in the

air. "You are going out a great

"Oh, yes, a great deal." "Paris is very gay—in the reign quarter. We find it foreign quarter. much changed."

A pause. The Princess glanced at her son and continued: "You must see the provinces. There are many interesting things to be seen in the provinces. There are still a few bits of old France that are hidden away."

"I am very anxious to go into the château district."

"You must see Aix and Carcassonne and the Basque country."
And so on. The young Prince at the fireplace meanwhile was lightly examining her, much as he would have studied the points of a finely bred hunter to add to his stable. He felt with a sense of irritation that he had been tricked. This was not at all the young American girl as he had hoped to see her. Distinguished, a gentle lady, bearing herself with dignity in an awkward moment, saying neither too little nor too much. Physically undeniably attractive, insidiously feminine, a charm felt at once—possibilities of a brilliant figure. What could he find to object to? What valid excuse could he form to his mother's inquiries? The stern look of his uncle rested upon him, the furtive, sentimental appeal of Aunt Angelique already won over, his mother's imperious in-terrogation. After all, Americans chose for themselves, could



She too had a right to demand everything.

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Again a pause in the conversation. Again the unspoken com-mand from his uncle. He caught his mother's expression of impatience, even amazement. He frowned, shrugged his shoulders. He met his mother's inquiry, gave an abrupt nod of approval. Then flinging away his cigarette, he went to the window and stood staring out gloomily.

At once the atmosphere cleared. As if by magic out came the sun amid a sudden loosened babbling of voices. Mme. the Princess de Sfax came over to the sofa on which Miss Waddington had been marooned, and taking her hand with the graciousness that only a great lady could command, said:

"My dear, if all your countrywomen were as charming as you, there would be too many old maids in France. I hope we are going to be great friends."

And the Duke:

"What a portrait Zuloaga would make of her! Mlle. Fingall,



absolutely, you must see that she is painted by Zuloaga—only Zuloaga can do justice to her eyes."

Chapter Twenty-eight

AND where have you been today?" said the Countess Kittery, coming into Jean's room as she was dressing for dinner. "Bettina, I have had the most wonderful experience in my life," she replied, all excitement. "I've spent two hours with the Princess de Sfax! My dear, it's like Versailles, Blois! I never knew such magnificence existed, such treasures! My head aches when I think what I have seen!"

"Two hours," said Bettina reflectively. "What a success!"

"I think they liked me. They were so cordial. We stayed on and on, but they wouldn't let me go. The Duke de Gondreville he was there too-told me the most extraordinary stories about the place. Fancy sitting in the little salon where Marie Antoinette used to come to escape from the Court. Think of touching the dinner-service that François I presented to the old Connétable. And such paintings and tapestries and furniture! I never dreamed of anything so royal!"

"And the young Prince?

"Oh, he was there too. Only he looked like a bored child."
"Really? He is considered very distinguished."
"Yes, he is that. Very much of the grand air."
"So you liked him?"

"He hardly said ten words to me."

"You astonish me!"

Jean stopped and looked at her cousin suspiciously. "What are you thinking?"

Bettina burst out laughing.

"My dear, why do you suppose Miss Fingall took you there?" "She has taken me to dozens of houses."
"Princess de Sfax! I shall have to begin to practice my

curtsey." The action suited the word. "What nonsense you are talking!" exclaimed Jean, flushing. "The Prince never looked at me twice."

"Are you sure? My conviction is that he looked you over a great many times. Really, Jean, you are an innocent! Duke de Gondreville, and the Princess Angelique too! do you suppose you were invited to meet the family?"

Jean sat down, struck all in a heap. Presently she burst out laughing as she remembered the stilted chilliness of the first

moments.

"No, it never occurred to me! That explains a great deal."
"My dear, you are too modest! Well, well—Princess de Sfax!
Not so bad! There are a great many women I know would go up those steps on their hands and knees just to have the door opened for them."

"How amusing!" Jean laughed, but it was only to cover her confusion. Quite a shock, but not at all a disagreeable one-rather thrilling.

'So that's the way it's done!

"They do things thoroughly over here," continued Bettina, watching her curiously. "Before they even consented to receive you, you may be sure you were thoroughly investigated, family history and family fortune. Tomorrow they will leave cards. In a week you will be invited to dinner—Hugh and I, naturally, a very grand affair. There will be more investigations. I foresee many conversations between the old Princess and myself. Then if everything is satisfactory, I shall be sounded out as to your intentions. Later I shall receive a formal demand for the hand of my cousin."

"Bettina, you're as inveterate a matchmaker as Miss Fingall!

There is only one trouble with your beautiful theories.

"What's that?"

"The Prince is not in the least interested in me." "The Prince? What has he got to do with it?" "But I tell you he was positively indifferent!"

The Countess Kittery understood perfectly well the reason for this indifference, but she kept her knowledge to herself. Jean was still hopelessly mid-Victorian, with a curious ignorance of

"My dear Jean, the Prince will do exactly as his family decides for him-family reasons, family necessities. The Prince de Sfax must have a fortune, but it is too great a name to be bartered for a vulgar upstart. You are too modest," she continued more seriously. "I can well understand the enthusiasm of the mother. You have the breeding and the charm and a number of other things which I'm not going to embarrass you by detailing. Well,

we are not exactly annoyed, are we? Rather a little flattered?"
"Rather." Jean smiled an enigmatical smile, looking down at the floor. Then she jumped up, still avoiding the direct look.
"However, I am not taking you too seriously."
"We shall see what we shall see!"

No, she was not at all annoyed. She smiled to herself, thrilled, pleasantly excited. A little feeling of pique, too, at the indifference of the young Prince.

"Amusing, if it is really so," she summed up to herself.

Chapter Twenty-nine

WEEK later, as the Countess Kittery had prophesied, they drove off to dinner at the Hôtel de Sfax. When they arrived, the doors of the great salons were open on a flood of lights. They passed through a procession of lackeys into the great room among arriving guests.

"And here is my charming little American friend," exclaimed the Princess de Sfax when Jean came in. She was standing under the blaze of the great chandelier, a striking figure in black

and white amid the brilliant evening décolleté of her friends.
"So glad you could come, my dear." She nodded brightly to
Bettina and her husband. "Your lovely cousin has quite won
our hearts, which of course doesn't surprise you." She looked Jean over with satisfaction, noting the modesty of her evening gown, and the one string of lovely pearls, and with her hand still

held in hers, presented her.

Jean heard dimly, "Son Altesse, la Princesse de Bourbon, le Prince de Bourbon, Son Altesse le Duc de Vendome, Madame la Duchesse de Rochefoucauld," curtseying as she had been instructed, a little intimidated at the rolling sounds of these great The ladies, blazing with such jewels as she had never seen, looked at her with open curiosity, here and there a smile, a look of understanding. The men, charmed with her youth, her poise and the loveliness in her eyes, complimented her with a frank enthusiasm that kept her continuously blushing, not at all to her disadvantage. The Princess Angelique embraced her affectionately. The Duke de Gondreville displayed her with already a feeling of pride.

The Prince Ludovic came toward her at last. Ceremonious bow, heels together, slight inclination of the head, encased in stiff "Mademoiselle, I hope you will accord me the honor to take you out to dinner."
"With pleasure, Prince," she said, smiling at the obstinacy of

his reserve, thinking: "He might at least look at me as though he approved. Other men do. Why is he so impersonal?"

The doors of the dining-room were thrown open, and the Duke de Vendome, who according to etiquette was the head of the house in which he visited, presently perceived the fact and led the way, giving his arm ceremoniously to the old Princess. Jean slipped her hand under the proffered arm and followed, her mind turning irreverently to flippancy as she caught the glance of Bettina maliciously following them.

"Prince and Princess de Sfax!"

Her hand on his arm, noting the frigid solemnity of his ex-

pression, she was thinking:

"Suppose it should come about? Surely if this were my future, I would have some premonition, wouldn't I? If you shiver when some one walks across your grave, there certainly ought to be a thrill when you go out arm in arm with the man you are destined to marry. What an absurd thought! Still, rather amusing. I wonder if he would have to obey, if Mother decides I'll do! Poor Prince!"

SHE tried to imagine herself in such surroundings. Would it bore her? Did they ever relax? Or did they parade solemnly through life as they paraded into the great dining-room with the hundreds of waving candle-flames, its battalion of powdered lackeys perfectly drilled, the historic silver on the long table shining among the glass, the curiously twined golden cupids and nymphs, and behind from the walls, the full-length portraits of ancestral knights in armor and ladies in gorgeous brocades? Rather impressive. She remembered certain great houses in America, new magnificences, freshly varnished. Impressive this, no imitation here! A whole history in display.

Her flippant mood passed as her imagination was stirred. They sat down sixty-odd, but almost immediately the conversation broke up into four or five groups, the discussion leaping across the table, seasoned with a brilliant bon-mot or felicitous anecdote. They discussed art and human nature, never too seriously to provoke animosities, lightly, gracefully, with the Gallic love of discussion as a mental exercise. The Prince Ludovic at her side sustained his part of the general conversation, making his points with good taste, retiring agilely behind a humorous retort. when the discussion threatened to arouse too many prejudices.

"He's not stupid—not at all stupid," she thought, listening.

"Ideas of his own, and knows how to express them. I wonder if he is dissipated. He doesn't look so."

Physically he pleased her. She liked the cut of his features. strongly masculine, and the high nervous pitch of his voice, full of enthusiasm, at times ironic, obstinate, rising into sudden bursts of malicious humor that was rather infectious. His eyes in the rare moments she had met them were steady and candid. He did not have the Latin insinuations of feminine grace that she liked but distrusted in the men who paid her court. even, she thought, slight understanding of her sex, indifference Authority, decision, ambition. Likable, inspiring respect. His very indifference to her attracted her and unconsciously threw her a little off her guard. Yet this indifference was never to the point of neglect. His manner was one of deference and punctilious attention. It was in the eyes that she felt opposition, even a certain hostility.

"Can you follow the discussion, mademoiselle?" he asked

politely at the proper moment.

"You talk dreadfully fast, and there are certain idioms-but

my French is good enough."

'He is wondering how to talk to me," she thought, smiling to herself. Then seeing that he had detected the amusement in her eyes, and was looking at her rather puzzled, she said: "You haven't met many American girls, have you?"

"Why that question?"

"You were wondering how to treat us, weren't you?" she retorted, to tease him. "Now, if it were a jeune fille Française?"

"Ah, the jeune fille Française!" He shrugged his shoulders.
"The subjects are very limited. We discuss the theater, the classics of course, the répertoire of the Française, and not all of that. The salon pictures are very safe. But the young girl here is getting a little out of hand."



He stopped and flung open his arms. "What a life!" he exclaimed. "Ted," she asked, "why don't you divorce?"

"That's our fault, isn't it?"

"Oh, times, conditions-

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She had an unreasoning desire to shock him.

"If you are very nice to a French girl, she thinks you want to marry her, doesn't she?" she asked innocently.
"What?" He was manifestly startled. "Oh, yes, that is a

"Then that is the difference," she continued. "No American girl would ever make that mistake."

He looked at her intently, and she stood the question in his eyes with a steady look in which the raillery was evident.

"Is this a lesson, mademoiselle?"

She raised her eyebrows.

"You are quick. What did you imagine I was going to be like?" she added maliciously.

"I think you are making fun of me."

"Not much sense of humor," she thought. "A little like Hugh. Perhaps husbands without a sense of humor are safer. I shall have to consult Bettina." Aloud: "Of course I am. You looked so disappointed the first time you met me!"

This was so true that he looked startled.

"What did you expect?" As he remained at a loss, she continued: "I'll tell you. You expected a large, athletic person smoking a cigarette, hair bobbed like a Zulu, very leggy. "Pardon-

"Showing lots of leg, noisy, talking incomprehensible slang and laughing in shrieks. Confess?"

He began to smile.

"Good, I have made him talk seriously to me, and I have made him smile," she thought, delighted. "What a triumph! How nicely we would get on if I could assure him he was in no danger. But I don't think I quite dare do that."

Aloud she resumed: "Still, at the bottom you do think we are dreadfully emancipated."

"I am brought up in old-fashioned ways."
"Don't be polite. I like to differ with people." She felt again the return of his old aloofness and, determined not to let him escape her,-Bettina was watching them,-said: "We believe that a woman is best prepared for the world if she knows what she is dealing with."

"There is a certain charm to us in their not knowing too much."

"A woman must know how to protect herself."

"But doesn't she lose something-the impulse of the man to protect her? mademoiselle." There is a touch of chivalry in that feeling,

"I must not let him know I agree with him," she thought. "Possibly, but with us I think women are looking forward more to intelligent companionship than to be blindly admired. Bettina, my cousin Countess Kittery, says the age of romance is past, because men are no longer so important in a woman's life.

"That has a strange sound to me. Do you believe that?"
"Yes." She spoke to convince herself. "I think so." "A question of temperament, of different races. It is not a Latin doctrine."

"But which brings the surer happiness?"

He reflected a moment, his eyes clouding.
"I think in this world we always pay for what we get. But our romance is part of our time for being young. It is well worth the price—yes, any price."

He said it with an accent of real feeling that left her thought-

ful, stirred in her memories, aroused to a genuine sympathy.

Before they could continue, the dinner was at an end, and he

was offering her his arm ceremoniously.

"There is something genuine about him," she thought. Other thoughts were in her mind, sober speculations, even a beginning of interest in the situation, which had not before appealed to her seriously. "After all, it is not impossible, not as impossible as I believed. I really am beginning to wonder."

The Princess de Sfax called to her when the men had again retired. "What were you two discussing so seriously?" she asked

with an encouraging smile.

"I was defending the American girl."

"But you are not at all like an American."
"Oh, but I am," she insisted, smiling into the eyes of a great lady who had joined the group, a very brilliant personage who had had at least a dozen lovers, who thoroughly enjoyed and showed her enjoyment at Miss Waddington's disquisition on the American girl's knowledge of life as a preparation for marriage. Somewhat startled, the confident little American girl would have been, if she had realized all that her audience had passed through in experience! The very naïveté of her attitude disarmed them. They smiled to themselves, but they liked her air of candor and the innocence which showed through everything she said. All took the situation for granted. The Princess de Sfax received as her due many compliments more or less sincere. But when the men returned, despite the pointed glance of his mother, Prince Ludovic remained only at Miss Waddington's side the short interval that strict courtesy demanded.

WHEN the automobiles had rolled away at midnight, and the supplementary footmen had departed after returning their liveries, the Princess de Sfax said: 'Wait a moment, Ludovic, I want to speak to you."

He turned unwillingly.

"I am a little tired tonight. I'd prefer-"

She gave him an imperious signal, and nodded to her brother

"Well, Angelique, how did you like her?"

"I thought her absolutely adorable."

"And you?"

"I should like to be thirty myself."

"And you, Ludovic?"

The others watched him.

"My dear mother," he said instantly, "I find Mlle. Waddington very distinguished."

"Charm?"

"A great deal of charm."

"Intelligent?"

"She is quite intelligent. She has good manners-excellent. She is very beautiful. Is there anything more you wish me to concede?"

"You have nothing to say against her?"

"Nothing."

"A la bonne heure!"

"Except that I don't intend to marry her."

"What!"

"I have no intention of marrying her."

"Your reasons?"

"I have given them. I wish to keep my liberty until I am

The Duke de Gondreville, who had been making ineffectual signs to his sister, interrupted:

"Voyons, ma sœur, leave things as they are. We haven't reached a crisis yet. Vico has answered you honestly. And the young lady hasn't signified her pleasure yet. Dame! At his age I felt the same. Marriage-a catastrophe, a prison! He must be given time to accustom himself to the idea.

The Princess de Sfax, ignoring her brother's signals, answered firmly: "I have made up my mind! Ludovic shall marry Miss

Waddington.

"I am sorry, ma mère, to oppose you in anything, but I tell you just as firmly, I shall not marry Miss Waddington, or any-one else, at present."

"Angelique, you are tired-if you would like to retire," said the old Princess, dismissing her sister with a gesture.

The old Duke, who understood that his sister in her anger was about to commit the indiscretion of discussing Mme. Laleu, took her by the arm and drew her aside.

"My dear sister, where is your good sense? If you drive him

into a temper, the boy is capable of anything. Let me deal with the situation. Believe me, it requires tact, a great deal of tact. Let me talk to him. Va te coucher. Leave us alone." "Ludovic, you will stay and listen to what your uncle has to say to you!"

She gave her son her hand. He took it and raised it respectfully to his lips. She swept out of the room.

Chapter Thirty

"ALLONS, Vico," said the Duke, smiling affably. "Light a cigarette and let's be done with tragic attitudes. Use a little tact with your mother, and perhaps in the end everyone can be satisfied.

"Mon oncle," said the young man, looking at him with his feline eyes, which were now dilated with an extraordinary emo-"I am not at all ignorant that you have exactly the same

intentions as my mother.

"Will you talk this over calmly as men of the world? Allons! Stop pacing the floor. Sit down. Relax."

The Prince de Sfax, without listening, burst out:

"You know very well why I wont marry!"
"Naturally. I'm not a fool. You love a certain Mme. La-

"I love her, blindly, desperately! I love her so that if she would consent—mark you, if she would consent—I would marry her tomorrow!"

"You realize the seriousness of your words?"

"Perfectly.

The Duke de Gondreville emitted a long whistle. "Here is a young man capable of anything, a real exalté," he thought. Aloud: "The situation is very grave. Let's talk it over."

"There is nothing to talk over. In return for my sacrifice, I want two years, only two years; but those two years I am

determined to have."

"Vico, you are incapable of a falsehood. Answer me this: At the end of two years, what then? Is this just to gain time? Will you consent then, or raise new objections?

His nephew did not answer immediately, still a prey to his

agitation. At length he said in a low voice:

"At thirty I shall marry. I have given my word to some one else."

The Duke de Gondreville looked up quickly. "To Mme. Laleu?"

The Prince Ludovic threw himself down in a chair and twisted his fingers together.

"Ah, you don't know her-you can't imagine the fineness of her character, her sense of duty, her unselfishness. You think she would harm me? You fear her?"

"I don't fear her, no."

"If you knew! The soul of honor-she has sacrificed everything for me! I gave her a promise to marry at thirty. I had to, or she would never have seen me again. When you have the happiness to be loved by a woman like that, a woman you would be proud to call your wife-what you can't understand, thatwhen you love as I love—two years, what is two years—" He spoke incoherently, fighting against his emotion, his eyes filled with tears. "She has never been willing to take a cent from me, never! She is thinking only of my future; a dozen times, twenty times, she has discussed my duty to my family-

"She too, Vico!"

"I tell you it is agreed—my word is given! In two years! We know, we both know what must (Continued on page 102)



OCT. 9: It hardly seems possible that I am still in Hollywood and have not become the screen's most foremost vamp. The only comfort I have in it all is that it is not my fault. I am simply not the kind of a girl which would "pay the price." I have decided it would be better to end it all by getting married to a man star and give up my career for his sake. I have read where a lot of men's star's wives say two careers cannot be in the same family. So if I should meet a man star and get acquainted and he should propose honorable marriage, I would say "yes" and let Avery back in Escanaba forget me if he can. The star's wives like Mildred Davis all seem to have a perfectly lovely time with their picture in the paper as their husband's pal and they are always giving parties for their kiddies. So I think that if a girl like me will simply not "pay the price" she had better give up her career and end it all by marrying and being a pal.

But in the meantime the studioes are very dull, that is for a girl like me. Everywhere there is no work. I just have to buy some clothes. It seems that extra people in Hollywood very often have to do something else besides act while they are getting a chance to. I do not suppose it would be hard for me to get a position in some hardwear dep't. such as I had in Escanaba when I was a small town girl myself. But I would certainly not get much of a thrill over selling aluminum after all I have been through. Still and all something must be done as I do not want to go home and anyway I have no money. And anyway everyone in Escanaba knows by now I came out here on a career and it would be horried to go back without it. There are some people like that Millie Strong who would never believe I could of had a career if I had not been so cold and hauty with all men. So it is just a question whether I will marry some man star or get some kind of a position until the studioes are busy.

Oct. 10: Well as the saying is, everything comes to her which

One rejoices to learn that the makers of motion pictures have a saving sense of humor toward certain aspects of that art-industry. Several producing organizations have become interested in these tales of Escanaba's dumbest Dora who seeks to be a super-vamp, and shortly after the completion of the series here they will be translated to the screen.

waits. Only yesterday I was writing in this diary how I had about decided to marry a man star and today when I asked at the Super Zenith for work if they didn't put me in a Philip Phillips picture! It just goes to show! It was a cabaret scene I was in and I was very thrilled. Not because of the cabaret scene, because there is no extra girl in Hollywood which would be any more thrilled in being in a cabaret scene than Tom Mix would be to ride a horse in a merry-go-round. But I was excited because it was for a Phillips picture and he is known as the "rajah of love" to all the world, and it seems like a sign or something after me just writing yesterday how I was willing to give up my career and marry a man star and be his pal. If I had of been put in a Gloria Swanson picture I would not of taken it as a sign.

I hope very much that Philip Phillips will relize immediatealy I am not the kind of a girl which would listen to anything but honorable marriage. I have to laugh when I think of how less than a year ago I was thrilled at thinking I might marry Avery in Escanaba. Like my mother always says, "there is nothing like traveling to make a person broader." Extra girls very often marry man stars or even directors out here. Alice Terry did. Of course I have noticed that man stars do not have their wives in their pictures like directors do. But I am willing to give up my career and be a wife and pal. I guess when I am married it will give Millie and all the girls a surprise. I only hope Avery will not turn to Millie in desperiation. But I cannot marry two

men and anyone would tell me I was downright foolish to marry

Avery when Philip Phillips asks me.

He did not seem to notice me today and I must say I was very surprised at the impolite way the director talked to him. We were merely rehearsing and no "shooting" was done, as we say in the profission, which has nothing to do with murders as the mere lamen might think but means takeing the picture. I have never seen Philip Phillips before except on the screen of course. But one thing I will tell him after wards and that is that he must demand everyone treat him with more respect. V. W. Biffith, the director, was perfectly terrible to him today saying, "All right Percy" or "Clarense" or any other name he could think of. But Mr. P. was just dignified and I suppose he considered it beneath him. But it is easy to see how much help a wife and pal might be to him.

Oct. 11: I simply cannot understand how Philip Phillips puts up with having so little respect. I just watched him all day. We still did not do any "shooting" and he was just as patent as he could be, walking and standing around where this impolite Biffith told him to for testing the lights or something and so fourth. All I can figure out about it all is that probably this director must be in love with a girl which preferrs Philip Phillips like what happened in a picture I saw once at the Bijou Rose called "Love's Blindness." In this picture the man which was not preferred did everything in his power to make things unpleasant for the preferred gentleman who bore everything in silence. So that is what I've figured out but I hope it is not so for it would be very inconvenient for me, with what I have planned for us, if Mr. P. was in love with another girl.

I guess there is no doubt that he is the one "man in the world for me" as the saying is. For I have been so unhappy about the way he is treated it has taken me all this time to write about the talk I had with him today. He is not very bright but very interesting, maybe because one knows he is the "rajah of love." I just had to keep reminding myself how thrilled the girls back home would be if they were in my place, but I must say that Avery is a lot more fun. But I could tell at once that what Mr. P. needs is a wife and pal. I told him today I thought it was dredful the way he was treated on the "set," and he said, "Oh,

well, I get my dough just the same so what do I care?" It was hard to remember he was the "rajah of love" but perhaps he was merely jokeing. Then he walked away. Tomorrow if he shows the same interest in me I may ask him to call and I certainly hope Mrs. Moppie who is my landlady will not think there is anything wrong "between" us if I ask her for the use of the parlor. Well I just cannot help it if she has one of those kinds of minds and when we are married she will sing another tune and will probably tell it all over that the great Philip Phillips wooed and won a young girl from her parlor. I am thankful to say we extras for the cabaret are all working tomorrow again.

Well it certainly does all look like fate. I have never worked with any director which does as much rehearsing and is so fussy about lights as Mr. Biffith. But I should worry as long as I get my seven (\$7.00) a day. Well now if that does not sound like as though I was already under the influents of Philip Phillips! I declaire it is almost the very same words he said. But I would never be under the influents of any man until I knew he had honorable intensions for me. I am not that kind

of a girl that is all.

Oct. 12: Of his own acord the "rajah of love" came over to me on the "set" today which certainly shows he is interested in me. I am very thrilled especially when I think how it would thrill Millie Strong. And he is having a date with me tomorrow night! When I told Mrs. Moppie she gave me a queer look and said "Are you sure it isn't John Barrymore?" I merely gave her a cold hauty look and said that I certainly knew the difference between Mr. Phillips and Mr. Barrymore. I would never be interested in Mr. Barrymore having heard he goes to dinners without his full dress clothes. Mr. P. is not like that though I must say he looks very different than on the screen not having such soleful eyes "in person." But my friends and Avery need never know this. I suppose poor Avery will feel very bad when he hears I have become the bride of the "rajah of love." But honorable marriage with a man star in Hollywood is something any girl would do if she had the chance. Of course Avery has wanted to be married to me for quite a while but somehow marriage is very common in Escanaba. It seems as if anyone can get married there which does not seem to be the case in Holly-

wood especilaly with a man star. So I do not think I should be blamed and will always remember

Avery kindly.

I certainly wish I had a new dress to wear tomorrow night. But I just have to pay something on my room rent out of some of the money I am making from Mr. Phillips picture, especialy if he is going to have dates with me regulariarily. I will have to be having the parlor as I am not the kind of a girl which would invite him up to my room. Anyway Mrs. Moppie would not let me. She always thinks the worst having been in the "proffession" herself. Once she acted a bit on one of the "lots" and she is always talking about how everyone said she was a marvellious "type.' I have never told her they were jokeing for what would be the use when I owe her over \$27 (twenty-seven) dollars rent?

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But I certainly wish I had a new dress. I need a lot of things and after these cabaret scenes are made I do not know of any other studio which will need me and even a girl playing "atmosphere" like me must have clothes. But I suppose I will be laughing at these times after I am the wife and pal of Philip Phillips, the "rajah of love."

Oct. 13: Oh diary, when I saw this date I knew what "un-lucky 13" means as the saying is. I do not think any girl in Hollywood has been decieved by wicked



I would never give him any encourgement, for what future has a man in the pies?



men as much as me. That was not the real "rajah of love" at all! He is merely his unphotografed double. He stands where he is told to just to see if the lights and so fourth are right and he has merely the coloring and the same size as the great Philip Phillips. They "shot" the scenes with us cabaret "extras" today and when everything was ready the real Philip Phillips came on the set and screens were put around him as he cannot make love with anyone watching only except the director. He walked right past me and if this terrible other person (which I always suspected) ever thought for a minute he could fool me he must of been crazy. I have just told Mrs. Moppie to say I am not at home when he comes as he and his ilk should be taught a lesson for taking advantage of innocent girls like me. Anyway I am afraid I might forget I am a lady and tell him what I think of he and his ilk.

Later: That terrible person did not even keep his date with me. Of course he knew I had found him out but he might of at least been gentleman enough to keep his date.

Nov. 1: Well it has been quite a while since I have written in my dear diary but there was nothing much to write. But now I have a position. I am behind the meats in a cafeteria. Had a long talk with Mrs. Moppie, who is really very simpathetick having been in the "proffesion" herself. She said I would be

surprised at what stars did before they were stars. They would work at anything. And she said that after they were stars what they did before always made good press stories for it shows what an ambitious girl will do to get experience and clothes. And

down here I get my lunch and dinner too.

Well it seems that everyone down at the cafeteria is really an actor or actoress except Pete, who is in the pies. I am really more in the atmosphere of the movie game than around the studioes where one is always meeting people who are merely trying to get in. I was talking to the girl in the salads today and asked her if she was in the "movie game" and she said well she had run around a lot with Lew Cody. Of course I do not know if that is true and for all she knows it might of been Mr. Cody's double. But it just goes to show that everyone down at the cafeteria is in contack with the "infant industery." Except this Pete who is bauld and probably would never have a chance. Pete is the kind which would like to get aquainted but I would never give him any encourgement for what future has a man in the pies? I told him with a cold hauty look that I was engaged to a man in my home town for I am not the kind of a girl which would ever be unloyal to such a fine man as Avery.

Nov. 8: Have been thinking I will stay in the cafeteria until after Thanksgiving and have turkey. (Continued on page 167)



"Young lady," he said, "some day I'll get even with you for that laugh." Cebergs Mary Clare Davron

Illustrated by Arthur William Brown

I T was mail-time at the Imperial, and the lobby buzzed. Hos-kins, the clerk, a pompous middle-aged man of tremendous self-importance, was handing out the letters. "Miss Cherry Mercer," he called.

A girl with a heart-shaped little face and skin like magnolia petals came forward and took the letter he held out. Then, without looking to right or left, she passed sedately out to the porch and walked quickly past the long lines of rocking-chairs where imposing-looking ladies were assembling their knitting and card-tables for the morning.

Down the steps she went, and out upon the driveway which led to the open road. A little way down that road, she seated herself, carefully and with due regard for her crisp white skirt, on a huge rock beneath a shady tree, then opened her letter. It was from her mother and read the same as the others. Glad Cherry was having such a wonderful time; she deserved it, and her mother wished the two weeks could be extended for the whole

Cherry shuddered at the prospect and thanked heaven they could not. If her mother only knew!

She put the letter back in her bag and then carefully pow-red her face. Today was Tuesday. It would be good to be dered her face. back in her small-town home again, good to be once more at work in Mr. Price's law-office. And her mother must never know.

Snapping shut her bag, she carefully got down from the rock

and started briskly off up the road. It was with these walks that she had managed to fill her mornings.

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Today she went farther than usual. She explored a new road and found it delightful. Reaching the point where she must turn back if she would be in time for luncheon, she stopped suddenly at sounds issuing from a field just around a bend in the road: soft groans, heavy breathing, muttered curses. "Damn!" in a muffled but highly explosive voice. A sound of metal clinking, a long hard-drawn breath, a sigh as though a mighty struggle had come to naught, then silence.

Cherry sped quickly around the bend and in through a fresh-cut, jagged gap in the thicket that surrounded the field.

There, sprawled on the ground against a rock, scratched and bleeding, one baleful eye glaring up at her and the other fast closing because of a huge black welt rising above it, lay a startling specimen of humanity. A motorcycle, twisted and broken, lay shattered around him; part of it lay upon him.

"C-can't you get up?" cried Cherry, running to him.
"Why, yes. Of course," he snarled. With an effort, he cocked his head to one side so that his good eye was full upon her. "But I'm lying here just because I—think it's fun."

His swollen eye and the blood trickling from scratches on his face, together with his constrained position, gave him a truly alarming appearance; and his attitude toward Cherry was highly Nevertheless he was human and he was approachbelligerent. able, two things of paramount importance to Cherry at the mo-

ment. So her voice was sympathetic and her touch gentle as she bent down and wiped away a little red stream running

from a cut in his cheek.
"Never mind my face," he snapped unappreciatively. "Can't you see I'm pinned down? See if you can lift that darned

thing off my leg.

All eagerness, Cherry did as she was told. With a big tug, she heaved off the wrecked motorcycle. The young man breathed easier, tried to move his leg, groaned, then lay still, his face against the ground.

"Can't move her an inch," he said, referring to the leg. "See if you can help me sit up." Obediently she helped him, and between them they managed to get him into a sitting position. Again Cherry applied her handkerchief to the still bleeding wound

in his cheek.

"I wish you'd let my face alone," he whined plaintively. "Something's the matter with my ankle. Can't you concentrate on

that?"

Gravely the girl accepted the responsibility. "I'm going to take

EACH year, for many years, a new name has appeared among those of our contributors -a name that has been ultimately made famous by this magazine. Here, then, is another, the name of an American girl that is destined to appear, one is inclined to think, more and more often in these pages.

"Not at all," he replied boredly. should have much preferred to kill them all. Manslaughter law's so inconvenient, though. But at that,"—he passed an exploring forefinger over his bruised eye,-I think I'd have taken a chance if I knew what I was in for by leaping through that hedge."

Cherry flashed him a withering look and decided she had never before met anyone so ill-tempered. She continued tying up the ankle, with the minimum of groans She continued tying up from him, for she had had some first aid training and was a nurse by instinct. Then

she laid his leg out straight in front of him.

"Be careful now—don't move it," she cautioned needlessly.

"Oh, no! I'll not be careful," he answered derisively. "I'll probably get up and waltz in a few minutes. Reaily, in the matter of giving pertinent advice, you excel anyone I ever met."

Cherry ignored this. He was in a very bad way, and if sarcasm helped him any, he was welcome to the luxury of it.

"Is there a cup or anything that'll hold water concealed in that mass over there?" She pointed to the wrecked motorcycle.



and washed your face,-yes, I said washed your face,-I'm going back to the hotel and get a bus to come for you. How did you come to go over that ledge? And where were you going?

"Where is this?" he asked, and winced a little as she tightened a bandage.

She named the town.

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"Here's where I am going. This happened"-he waved a hand toward the wrecked motorcycle-"because as I was about to turn that bend in the road, a pony cart with three kids and a nurse in it came along full tilt, and it was either run into them or go through the hedge and hit the rock."

"It was noble of you to think so quickly-and act like that."

"You might try the kit." Owlishly he watched her while she pried tentatively among the ruins, one wide-open blue eye upon her, the other now entirely closed. She explored gropingly through the pile of broken wire, torn leather and bent steel. "I-I can't find anything," she began falteringly.

"You'd hardly find anything there," he commented, then drawled: "Even with my one eye, I can see what a profound knowledge of machinery you have. The kit is fastened to the bar that flew over there."



affixed here and there some plaster from the kit. Then she bethought herself of a soft handkerchief-the extra one her mother always insisted upon-which she car-

ried in her small vanity case. Just the thing to dry the sensitive bruised face. She reached for her bag.

An exclamation of horror from the patient, a sudden throwing up of both hands to shield his face, and Cherry stopped short. "Wh-what is it?" she cried in dismay.

He pointed to the vanity case. "What are you going to do with that?" he demanded.

"Get a handkerchief out of it to dry your face."

He relaxed and breathed a heavy sigh of relief. "I thought you were going to paint and powder me," be gasped meekly. "Or maybe pluck my eyebrows."

"You're awfully silly," commented Cherry briskly, and speed-

ily produced the handkerchief.
"I'm at your mercy," he explained. "And my map has had all the innovations it can stand for one day." He made a whimsical grimace. "If you don't think the effect would be too start-ling for one in my weakened condition, I'd sort of like a look into that little mirror of yours."

Cherry held up the mirror.
"Good Lord!" he exclaimed in tones of such genuine alarm that Cherry laughed aloud. He handed back the mirror and surveyed her gravely.

"Young lady," he said, "some day I'll get even with you for that laugh."

Then for the first time he smiled, and Cherry wondered that a smile could make so much difference on any countenance, particularly the battle-scarred one before her. And it was that smile that decided his fate!

For suddenly an idea came to Cherry, a wild new hope was

born, and she made a daring plan.

"You're not going to be entirely well," she said, judicially surveying the swollen ankle, "before the end of the week. Not until Saturday or Sunday at the earliest."

"O prophet of cheer!" he groaned.

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They tried out his other leg then, and leaning heavily on Cherry, he managed to hobble out to the roadway. There luck was with them. One of the express wagons that carried luggage between the station and the hotels was just coming down the

road. At Cherry's call the driver drew up alongside of them.
"Wont you please take us to the Imperial?" Cherry pleaded.
"You staying at the Imperial?" he questioned, looking at the young man, who at the moment appeared much the worse for

"Well, I don't know," replied the latter, holding out his bandaged leg. "Foot-loose and fancy free as I am, I should make a tour of the hotels to see which would suit me best. I

"He's coming to the Imperial," Cherry cut in.



The driver helped them up to the back of the truck and made room among the trunks for Cherry to sit beside her battered partner.

"Perhaps you'd better know something right off," Cherry began impressively, her eyes steadfastly upon his face.

I—I'm kidnaping you."

She waited for her words to take effect, which they did not "I'm taking advantage of your helpless condition appreciably. and bringing you to the Imperial. And you've got to stay there until the end of the week.'

"A couple of days, and this leg will be all right."

"Doesn't make any difference. You've got to stay till the end of the week."

"The end of the week! The end of the week! Sounds like a litany. What's the end of the week got to do with me?"
"This much," said Cherry solemnly. "At the end of the week,

Then you can do what you like."

She told him then, with an intensity that even he took cognizance of, about the vacation plans that had so grievously miscarried. Of how she was to meet the Landays, two old ladies, friends of her mother, who lived in New York and came to the Imperial every summer, and who had written in answer to her mother's letter that they would look after Cherry going up to the hotel and during her stay there. At the last moment,

just as she was about to board the train for New York, they had sent a telegram. Miss Angela was ill and they were post-poning their trip until later in the season. They would be glad to have Cherry with them then.

Then! As if young ladies who worked in law-offices could

alter vacation plans at a moment's notice!

Cherry's mother never saw that telegram. it tight in her hand. It had been too late to turn back then. Her mother must not, could not be disappointed. All the pretty new vacation clothes had cost too much in loving labor of all too hard-working hands. The whole wild scheme of her vacation had been paid for too dearly in scrimping and saving and tremulous planning on her mother's part to have it peter out then. So she had come alone.

She neglected, however, to inform her companion of a certain other disappointment that lay in store for her mother. For when Cherry's protests had been loudest at the extravagance of her vacation plans, the mother had pointed out firmly that every girl had her future to take care of-meaning, of course, to marry; and Cherry recognized this as the motif in the otherwise wild plan of sending her to the expensive resort. Her mother had once known a girl who went away for a vacation and came back engaged. Many times since her arrival had Cherry laughed at the prospect of (Continued on page 144)



One of the noted Paul Hellen's famous dry-point etchings of Mrs. Philip Lydig.

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WHEN I first met Betty Gower,—let me Call her,—she had just married for money and got it. An old man worth perhaps forty million dollars had fallen in love with her and married her in the late summer and died of pneumonia before Christmas, leaving her his entire estate well invested and She was a pretty girl, not at all secure. sophisticated, full of high spirits, healthy and simple-minded and a little vain. As a rich young widow, she came in for a great deal of flattering attention, and she enjoyed it. People attempted to make her a patroness of various artistic movements in New York, but she was not interested in any form of art. They failed, similarly, to engage her in any activities on the boards of charity and philanthropy that were open to her, or to busy her in church work, or to find any social duties that appealed to her, except her duty to amuse herself. She did that, innocently enough, with the men who wanted to marry her. She flirted around with them all, safely, after the manner of the privileged American girl, and had a gay time.

Then she went to Paris, and she was at

All over America people are imitating the conduct and ideals of the fashionable rich—the so-called "smart set"—of the East. I believe that those ideals are false ideals, tragic ideals, which it is disastrous for America to imitate. The conviction is my justi-

fication for preparing and publishing this series of articles on the futility of fashionable life.



At the Auteuil race-track all fashionable France gathers, and the American visitor finds it one of the most alluring scenes of the fascination that is Paris.

once taken up by the racing set there, and by the organized adventurers who come to Paris from all parts of the world. They are a marvelous band of dissolute and dangerous men and women —Russian dukes, German princelings, Italian counts, Greek and Austrian and Roumanian noblemen, English gentlemen with suave manners and no means, women of title who make a living as go-betweens—all united in a smiling conspiracy to entrap the ignorant outsiders who have money and to pluck them to their last cent. They flew to Betty Gower like a flock of buzzards. They helped her to spend her money in the Rue de la Paix, introducing her to expensive shops where some of them could even collect commissions on her purchases. They took her to the races and helped her to lose her money there. They got her the entrée to all the naughtiest cafés and let the proprietors overcharge her outrageously for entertaining them. They flattered and courted and dined and amused her, industriously, and the men made love to her with passionate eloquence and their sort of practised art.

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Love-making is at once a sport and a profession for them. They do it with devotion and with skill. They enjoy it, and they make their living by it. They pursue only rich women, of course, and if they bag a victim they boast about it to each other as proudly as any other sportsmen; and they even lie about it, if the bird gets away. No American girl is able to cope with them. She is accustomed to men who have some chivalrous feeling toward a woman—men who, at their worst, have a little pity for her as a fellow-human, and cannot carry on a liaison without feeling some slight affection for their partner in it. These adventives in Paris have no more affection, no more chivalry, no more pity than a wolf.

Poor Betty Gower might have resisted the less skillful among them, but her forty millions attracted a brilliant and charming Russian who dazzled her with his title and hypnotized her with his craft. He pretended, of course, that he was mad with love for her, that he intended to divorce his wife in Moscow and abandon his family and relinquish his insolvent estates to marry

Betty; and she believed him. When I heard of her in Paris, she was already deeply in love with him and giving him money on the various excuses which he invented for her. It was too late to save her from him. There was nothing to do but to let her infatuation run its course.

It soon became too difficult for him to get money from her. He tired of her, and he planned to get rid of her with the aid of a handsome Greek who could boast that he had once had a royal mistress and showed—to prove it—the dagger with which his princess had killed herself. With the Russian's connivance, this romantic villain began to make frantic love to Betty, and she understood her situation so little that she encouraged him in order to make her lover jealous. She was soon caught in a situation where the Russian could accuse her of unfaithfulness, and he denounced her and deserted her, self-righteously. She fell into the hands of the Greek, who proceeded to console her and to exploit her.

She was now becoming dissipated. Both men had encouraged her to drink so as to break down her resistance, and as she became more and more unhappy she found solace, more and more, in alcohol. The Greek used drugs, and he taught her the habit; it made it easier for him to get money from her. She became conspicuous in the most richly dissolute circles of Parisian life.

There is nothing to equal that life, I think, in any other city of the world. Paris is the playground for all the most cynical and sophisticated men of our Western civilization. They come there for a holiday, leaving behind them, in their homes, their wives and families, their work, their moral responsibilities and most of the obligations and restrictions of their code. They find waiting for them in Paris a professional entertainment that has no code whatever, no obligation except to be gay, no responsibility unless it is to loot. The real life of Paris goes on independently of all this. The real life of Paris is as remote from it as the real life of New York is remote from Coney

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I do not know the steps by which Betty Gower descended into the golden depths of this Parisian underworld. I did not see her again until she returned to New York, years later, at the end of her career. Her health and her beauty had both gone, though she was dyed and painted and whipped up with stimulants into a colorful imitation of beauty and health. Of her forty millions she had only enough left to live on, economically. She was still a fairly young woman, and she wished, she said, to marry and be happy in a quiet domestic life. That proved impossible. She could find plenty of dissolute men to make love to her, but none of them proposed to marry her. She launched herself into dissipation in New York, got herself ostracized by all her old friends, and retreated to a sanitarium from which she never emerged. No one knows where she is, now. No one seems to care whether she is alive or dead.

If her story were unique, or even unusual, there would be no point in telling it. The truth is that she is typical. I have seen and she persuaded her husband to give up his New York residence and arrange to conduct his business through the offices of his firm abroad. After a season in London, they set up house in Paris, and she was delighted with her life there. The men, she kept saying, were so much more charming than American men; they were so amusing, so entertaining, so witty; they knew so well how to make a woman happy with little attentions; they were so gallant. It was useless to tell her that most of the men whom she was receiving would not be received in any respectable French home; she considered that sort of thing provincial. And it was worse than useless to tell her that they were dangerous and unscrupulous men who might easily destroy her reputation and ruin her life; she believed that she was abundantly able to take care of herself and she would have regarded such a warning as an insult. She was really a wholesome and kindly person, as large in her generosity as she was in her full Southern figure, slow and sweet.



A typical cabaret in Montmartre, where our compatriots go to see the wicked side of gay Paris.

the same sort of thing happen so often to the rich American woman in Paris that Betty Gower's history is almost a stereotype in my experience. I was born in New York myself, but my people were all Spanish; we were abroad a great deal in my childhood; we had relatives in fashionable life in Paris; I was sent to school in Paris, and when I came to live there after my marriage, I had friends and relatives to protect me in a life that was as full of pitfalls for me as for any other American girl who is considered handsome and reputed to be rich. I have seen a score of Betty Gowers caught in the traps which I was shown and warned against by men and women who knew their way about in that world as no American could possibly know it.

I remember, for instance, an American woman named Alma Lamb, let us say. She was a Virginia girl, married to a New York millionaire who owned a line of Atlantic steamships. Her reading, at home, had made her romantic about France and about England, There had followed her from London a young Englishman of good family who seemed devoted to her. He had no apparent means of support, but it was understood that he might possibly inherit a title and estates when death picked off some of his intervening relatives. Meantime he was living by his wits, rather boyishly, gambling and playing the races. Alma seemed to be mothering him. He was, to all appearances, a charmingly irresponsible and appealing youth. I did not believe it when I was told that he had a bad reputation in London, that he was making love to Alma and taking money from her, and using her for his own purposes, caddishly.

However, it was true. It was true, and her husband discovered

However, it was true. It was true, and her husband discovered it and started a suit for divorce, and her lover promptly ran away and left her to her fate. She was rescued by another American, a much older man who had a stanch affection for her. He had lived in Paris for years. He understood the temptation



The grand march of the artists at the Bal Bullier, a famous revel that draws many visitors.

to which she had succumbed and he forgave her. They were married, immediately upon her divorce, and I supposed that she was saved, if not from disgrace, at least from complete disaster. Unfortunately, she did not love this man. She accepted him only as a makeshift, and it was not long before she was seeking romantic adventures again among the men who made a living by counterfeiting romance.

She did not fall a victim to alcohol and drugs, like Betty Gower. She remained, to all appearances, sweet and matronly and softly Southern. She kept her health and her comeliness. She was never really beautiful. Her charm was in her quality of wholesome generosity and simple big-heartedness. But as a matter of fact, under that appearance she proved to be as addicted to liaisons as a dipsomaniac to drink. I read of her fifth marriage in the papers, the other day. She seemed to be always able to find a husband to try to reform her, and they invariably fail. She is now quite déclassée in Paris, living precariously on the fringe of Bohemian life, and very near the end of her tether.

Both Betty Gower and she were destroyed by the wolves—by the professionals who make a living out of love-affairs with rich Americans. But it is not only the professionals in Paris who are dangerous. The amateurs are almost as great a menace to the coquettish American girl who comes there in a holiday spirit to play with fire. At the bottom of most of the disasters which happen to her, there seems to me to be her complete misunderstanding of what a Frenchman means when he talks of love.

I shall never forget the bewilderment of a New England girl whom I saw flirting with a Parisian on an Atlantic liner. He had started paying her polite attentions and she encouraged him. He became an ardent Romeo, openly eloquent, passionately devoted. She enjoyed it. The whole ship enjoyed it. He seemed to have no thought that did not include her, and certainly no moment of his time that was not dedicated to her. He worshiped, he adored her, and she was pleased and excited and enormously flattered and finally rather alarmed.

At last, one evening, walking on the deck with him, she undertook to tell him how she felt toward him. It got down to this, that though she did not love him and could never love him, she hoped that they might always remain affectionate friends. After listening to her for a moment, he left her quite abruptly.

And next morning, to her amazement, he did not know that she existed. He was polite but indifferent to her when she tried to speak to him. He was not hurt or jealous or offended, but all his ardor had vanished overnight, and she could not even warm him up again to a shipboard friendliness.

I do not know how to explain the psychology of such a man in terms which the Anglo-Saxon understands. To an American, love is a deeper form of affection. It includes sympathy and friendliness and congeniality. Sexual attraction is only a part of it. But with such a man as this Parisian, there is no friendliness or sympathy or affection in the love which he offers the woman whom he meets casually. All his worship and his adoration and his ardor and his eloquence are inspired by a passion that is even cruel. He wants nothing but her body. He romanticizes this impulse, which the Anglo-Saxon considers low and bestial. He is poetic about it. As a Latin-he is heir to the old Pagan tradition that the impulse is somehow divine and the work of a god. is not interested in the woman's mind, in her character, in her conversation, in her mental companionship. In this case, of course, the girl was not his mental equal, and her conversation probably bored him, and her friendship offered him nothing. He did not want her friendship, and the moment he realized that he could not get what he did want, he felt that she had been cheating him with false pretenses and he left her without a word.

One would be ridiculous to criticize such a man because his idea of love is abhorrent to the romantic standards of an American girl, and it would be easy to find in him romantic ideals of family honor, of military glory, of passionate love of country, beside which an American's standards in such matters seem offensively realistic and unglamorous. I am not criticizing. No. The point I wish to make is simply that the Frenchman has an idea of love that is unlike any which the American girl is used to, and the difference often leads her to disaster.

One of the most shocking tragedies that I have ever seen occurred in the life of an American girl who had lived long enough abroad to get a partial graft of foreign ideas of conduct upon a temperament that was basically Anglo-Saxon, as we say. She was not only one of the most beautiful but easily the most brilliant girl I have known anywhere. She was musical and artistic, and she was such a linguist that she spoke even Greek like a native. She was witty. She dressed marvelously. She had lived almost



Photo by Herbert Photos

all her life in Paris, where her parents had been leaders of the American colony for years, and she knew her Parisian world very

She had two handicaps, however. One was that she had very little money, so that she had to use craft and practise makeshifts to keep herself afloat among the fashionable rich with whom she wished to associate. The second was that her father, discovering a lover in her mother's bedroom in Paris, had killed the man and died in an insane asylum. It was reported that the mother, wringing her hands over that tragedy, had sobbed: "Oh, what will become of my social position!" That report, I imagine, was the invention of some French wit, but it represented the truth about the unfortunate woman and indicated a quality in her which her daughter Cecilia inherited. Cecilia was endlessly ambitious socially and she was determined to climb.

She was helped by a school friendship which she had formed, in a Paris convent-school, with another American girl who was the daughter of one of the richest men in California. Cecilia and she became inseparable. She was a rather simple and repressed little girl, the victim of a domineering mother, and she conceived an all-absorbing passion for the brilliant and beautiful Cecilia. She invited Cecilia to her home, and traveled with her in Europe, and lavished gifts on her and gave her money. They were like a pair of affectionate sisters.

This girl's mother was a most extraordinary woman, a repellantly strong character, as ambitious as a man, with inexhaustible vitality and will and driving power, but so tactless that she seemed stupid. And she was stupid, I think. She arranged a marriage for her daughter with one-of the oldest and most famous titles in Europe—the Prince Casanova, let me call him, for he was as dissolute as Casanova. She arranged that marriage against the opposition of her husband, whom she browbeat into silence, and despite the reluctance of her daughter, who was in love with a young American. She compelled her husband to buy the Prince with a marriage dot of several million dollars, and she was even foolish enough to have the money legally placed in trust for

the Prince, so that he would have the income from it independent of his wife.

If Cecilia had been a loyal friend, she might have helped the girl to resist being sold into a life of misery, but Cecilia saw that her own ambitions would be furthered by having her friend made a princess, and she aided the mother in arranging the match. I imagine it was her influence that finally overcame the girl's reluctance. She was a bridesmaid at the wedding. The Prince had been flattering her with compliments and attentions, and when she saw him standing at the chancel rail to meet his bride, she became conscious of an ambition that must have been hidden in the back of her mind from the beginning. She said to herself: "I'm going to be the Princess Casanova!"

I know this is incredible, but I know that it is true. Years afterward, Cecilia confessed it to me. I am disguising the

story beyond recognition, but I am telling the facts literally. They were married in Paris with an almost royal pomp, and they went for their honeymoon to the Prince's Italian estates. Cecilia went with them. The Princess would not be separated from her. The Prince was delighted to have her. He undoubtedly saw himself provided not only with a rich wife but with a beautiful and clever mistress, for he began to make advances to

Cecilia at once, and she did not exactly repulse him. It would take a master of morbid psychology to explain the intrigue that ensued. In the milieu of wealth and aristocracy to which Cecilia was now translated, she had offers of marriage from a score of distinguished men, and she was so dazzling in her beauty and so tactful in her cleverness that I believe she could have married any man in Europe that she wanted. In spite of all that, she remained true to her desire to marry the Prince. She entered into a liaison with him, unknown of course to the Princess, and she obtained his confidence and found out about his affairs with other women, and then privately she conveyed this information to the Princess so as to enrage the girl against him.

At the same time Cecilia encouraged the infuriated bride to take her revenge in infidelity to the Prince, and she reported to him everything that his wife did. She made her devoted intimacy with the Princess so conspicuous that it became a scandal in Rome, where her guilty relations with the Prince were never suspected. She brought the Princess on questionable jaunts to Paris, and led her to the most disreputable places, and conspired to give her every appearance of being a daringly wicked woman. This went on for years, until they were both notorious for immorality, and yet I am convinced that, through it all, the Princess remained a simple-minded victim, acting outrageously because of her resentment against Casanova, and Cecilia continued true to her liaison with him.

She kept urging him to divorce his wife and she finally brought him to it. In a quarrel with the Princess, he accused her of unfaithfulness with a man of whom Cecilia had warned him, and the taur the suit C the but rage It v run a lit

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Students coming down to the fountain after the Quat'z Arts ball—a lively function to which American visitors occasionally gain admission.

the Princess admitted it, to hurt him. "Not one only," she taunted him. "Twenty-one! Twenty-one!" He put her out on the streets, so as to disgrace her publicly, and started a divorce suit.

Cecilia deserted her, at once, and came to Paris to wait for the Prince. He did not follow her. He obtained his divorce, but he did not take advantage of it to marry Cecilia. She, in a rage and penniless, began to give herself to every man in sight. It was then that I saw her. She looked ill and shabby, her shoes run down at the heel, her clothes pathetic. She was living in a little cheap apartment, breeding Persian cats for sale and accepting lovers indiscriminately. I gave her some money and some clothes and tried to remonstrate with her. "You!" I said. "You might have married anyone! But anyone! What are you doing with your life, to be in such a state!"

"Pah!" she said. "You talk like a child. There's only one

"Pah!" she said. "You talk like a child. There's only one life for a woman. All this nonsense about marriage and money! There's only one life for a woman, and I live it. Moil Je suis cocatte!"

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When I asked her what had become of her friend the Princess, she shrugged her shoulders. The Princess was hidden away somewhere in the Austrian Tyrol, in a sanitarium. And boastingly, and with contempt, she told the story of her conspiracy from the moment that she had seen the groom at the chancel rail and said to herself: "I'm going to be the Princess Casanova!"

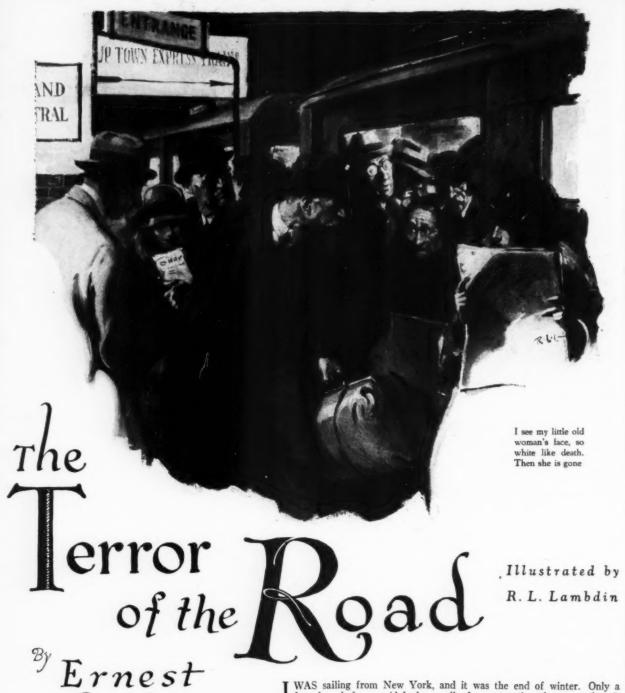
It seemed to me, then, that she was still in love with him—that beneath all her veneer of cynicism and vice, she had, in her Anglo-Saxon subconsciousness, what the psychiatrists call "a fixation" on this unutterable cad of a man. And I think the sequel proved that I was right. The Prince came at last to

Paris and sought her out. She repulsed him. "Every man in the world," she said, "but not you. You can never have me until you make me the Princess Casanova!" She went openly to the lowest dives in Paris to humiliate him. She took lovers among the most disreputable. She pursued a nobleman as vicious as the Prince but richer, with whom he had had an old rivalry in which Casanova had been defeated, and she sent word, roundabout, to the Prince, that she was going to become the mistress of this ancient enemy of his. Casanova practically kidnaped her, and shut her up in an apartment, and held her there a prisoner, to the amusement of the whole town. When she appeared again, they were engaged.

She is now the Princess Casanova. He has married her. She has attained her ambition after twenty years of intrigue. And it has done her no good whatever. No decent person will receive her. She is an outcast in the society to which her title should have given her the entrée. She has lost her health and her beauty, ill of a disease which she contracted during her Paris dissipations. He is a frightful-looking wreck of a man. Their ruin is absolute.

I offer these stories as typical, in one way or another, of the fate of the American girl who goes to Paris in search of fashionable adventure and excitement. But as I said before, the life in which these women perished is not the real life of Paris. It has no relation to the real life of Paris. I know no city in the world where life can be saner, happier, more wise or more wholesome, and when I think of what Paris did for me, I am as grateful as a country boy to the alma mater that tried to teach

Of all the people in the world, the (Continued on page 157)



Poole

IN this brief tale by the author of "The Harbor," "Beggars' Gold," "Danger" and other famous books is a veritable crosssection of peasant experience in America. Mr. Poole, by the magic of his writing, transmits to the reader something of the overwhelming fear that seized upon the "little old woman" in a New York subway, and one shares her dumb terror. 80

WAS sailing from New York, and it was the end of winter. Only a I WAS sailing from New York, and it was the cha of the line few days before, we'd had a spell of zero weather, but now the air was sunny with spring; and as our big liner steamed slowly down the Lower Bay and out to the sparkling blue and the whitecaps reaching far as the eye could see-with the tang of that air there came to me the old, old tingling joy of the road. Thank God for the open seas again! And as I walked the decks that morning, it seemed as if everybody on board felt the same exhilaration as I. But later, down at luncheon, I found myself at the doctor's table, seated at that gentleman's side; and in the festive hubbub there, he was curiously still, though I caught a strange little smile in his eyes.

"How brave we all are when the sea is smooth-what glad adventurers!" I said.

"Most of us, yes," he answered. "But we have one on board today who has been nearly mad with fear."

"Of the ocean—on a day like this?' I asked him, quite incredulous. "No—not just the ocean."

I asked him many questions then, and the end of it was that after lunch he took me to one of the forward decks for the third-class passengers. And there I met a little man whose short cropped hair was almost gray, but whose chest and limbs looked strong, whose face was tanned by wind and sun, and whose clear eyes were quiet now. As he puffed slowly on a pipe, he told me this story of traveling:

I am Czech (he began) an' American too. Twenty years in this country, me an' my wife—but we don't travel none at all—we stay on farm in Ioway. An' my old wife, she used to that, an' she don't like to take some trip. It scare her. She remember the trip from old country. That was bad. So she want always stay on farm. We have no children—jus' that farm—but twenty years we make it grow. We work—she work so hard as me. In morning, up before the light; in night-time, dark before we through. Always working—winter too. That farm, he grow like child for us. We take him rough, no farm at all. We plow, we sow; we build more barn an' make house bigger, nicer—slowly—many month an' many year. My wife don't leave it. I drive off ten miles to village, sell an' buy, come back again. My wife still there. In twenty years she don't know to speak in English. We speak Czech.

Maybe once or twice in year comes a letter from our home. Small village—not so far from Prague—stand high in hills. Our people there. When war begin, they write to us that they are having damn' hard time. We help a little—send some money. Then the war at last is done, an' now our people write to us an' brag to us about new country that they have—all free—good as America. An' those people brag an' brag till we want talk of our farm too—not little—big—American. My wife want tell what house we have, what barn, hogs, cattle, horses, Ford. An' we want see old village now, in hills near Prague—nice, pretty, there. We have work for twenty years. We get old fast. An' so we say we spend some money once in lives; we take big trip an' see

old home.

We say so, an' we talk an' talk. My old woman scared again. She say she want to close her eyes, an' then wake up an' be at home. But that long trip between is bad. She remember storm on sea, an' many trains, an' she don't like. An' so we wait an' we don't go. But then I make her, an' we start. A neighbor man look after farm—he will live there while we gone. But now my wife is like old hen; she run to look at pigs an' chickens, ducks an' geese an' calf we have, an' cats, an' one small bird in cage. Who look after? How she know that cholera will not come to pigs, or hawks take chickens? She get very cross with me; she will not speak; she plan an' plan. She will not take no trunk along—she

fear to lose it on those trains; so she pack all that we must take in two big bags. An' so we start like peasant people, an' she cry when we leave home.

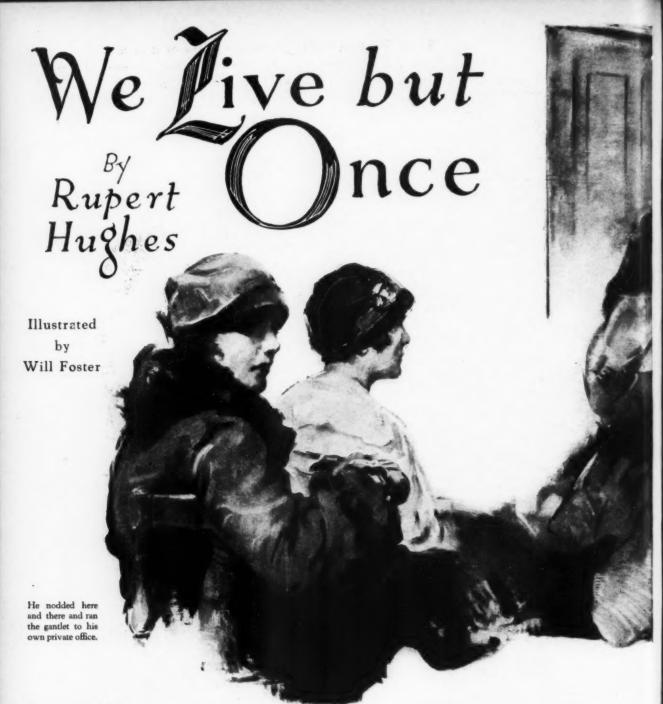
Two days an' nights we come New York. My old woman is scared at first on train, but then she is not scared no more. She don't like towns, but she get proud when now she find how smart we are to change from one train to the next. She feel now maybe we all right. Fine trip. We have lot of fun. She look at all those farms we pass, an' talk an' laugh, get pretty gay. Fine holiday, big spree for us. My old woman work all life. I like now give her plenty fun. I ask her come in dinner car an' eat nice dinner. She wont come. She have plenty lunch for us in bag until we reach New York. Then I jump off train for coffee, an' she scared I not come back. She wave to me that I must run. I come—she laugh—be very glad. But she is too excited now. She have sit up on train all night. I try buy ticket for bed on train, but she wont let me waste no money. So at night she use her bag for pillow, but she sleep no good. She tired an' she talk in sleep. Next day she say she feeling fine, but she look pretty tired out. An' so at last we come New York.

(His voice had been low and quiet, but it rose a little now, and suddenly I noticed his hand was clenching hard on the bowl of his

pipe. But still he spoke quite steadily.)

We come to station five o'clock. I take our bags, good heavy load, an' my old woman grab my arm. We go from train in the station—crowds of people, plenty noise. My wife keep close; she pretty scared. How we find where we shall go? I plan go to one hotel, nice little one, not far from boat, an' so I wish to go downtown. I show card of that hotel to station guard. He tell me we shall go in subway an' he point what way it is. We go—an' many people now push us in a crazy hurry. Crowd is worse, keeps going faster. My old woman grab me hard. I have our bags; I hang on tight, an' we get pushed to ticket-window. I buy tickets; we go on. An' now they push us all one way, to train uptown, but I don't see. I am grabbing bags an' my little old woman—looking, looking—pushed along—with one big rush right close to train—when then I see it say "Uptogm." I shout to wife—I try to pull back! I am too late! (Continued on page 153)





The Story So Far:

VALERIE DANGERFIELD had always had everything from Now, when this handsome stranger so intrigued her with the shadow of sadness on his face, she sought to have him At a musicale she was introduced to him and learned that his name was Blair Fleming—and met his silly little over-dressed wife, and thought she understood that look of tragedy in his eyes. Later Mrs. Fleming invited Valerie to a week-end party at the mountain resort of Arrowhead Lake. And Valerie so contrived it that she should drive Fleming up the dangerous mountain road in her own car the evening after the others had assembled. Halfway up the difficult ascent they were caught in a terrific cloudburst, and barely escaped going over the precipice. All that night they sat side by side in the storm-girt islet of the car. When daylight and cleared skies woke them from a doze, they found the crippled car immovable, and were forced to trudge up the muddy road toward their destination. What, they wondered forebodingly, would Blair's wife Amy say? And what would she suspect? And yet there had been nothing—nothing,

that is, except one kiss tempted from Fleming when Valerie had

Slipped near the cliff-edge and he had caught her.

A camping fisherman provided them with breakfast; his tent afforded Valerie shelter wherein to bathe and to change her bedraggled apparel; and his little car conveyed them the remaining distance to the cottages of the Arrowhead Lake resort-and to

There fortune surprised and favored them. For Amy was out strolling with the Englishman Jimmy St. John; Valerie inadvertently and unobserved came upon them foolishly philandering and realized that Mrs. Fleming was in no position to attack lair and Valerie for their adventure. . . . It was the follow-Blair and Valerie for their adventure. ing morning, as the various guests were packing up and saying good-by, that Fleming, passing Valerie, groaned without looking at her: "I love you! I love you!" And later Valerie said to him: "I heard you. It made me very happy. For I love you!" Later Valerie arranged a meeting with Blair: she drove to Say

Bernardino to replevin her repaired car; he went thither by

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train, and met her; they drove homeward through the night together. And Valerie delivered her ultimatum:

"If you love me enough to get free from your wife somehow, then I'll know you love me enough to deserve my love. I'm nobody, but my love is all I've got to give, and I'm not going to pitch it down under any man's feet. You figure out some way to break up your happy home and then come to me, and I'll be waiting."

Blair did his best to present Amy's side of it—she was not to blame for the temperament she had been born with, and the affair must be arranged so as to hurt her as little as possible. And Valerie, counting on Amy's flirtation with St. John (which Fleming did not know about), thought it could be managed without too much difficulty. But here another well-laid plan went agley, for Amy had already broken decisively with St. John. (The story continues in detail:)

WHERE do people go when they sleep? They lie about the earth like fish left high and dry on a beach, a few flopping a little, but the rest sprawled and still. The tide comes back, and life drowns them anew. The daily universal resurrection takes place.

The sun that climbed the harsh eastern bulwark of the San

Gabriel Mountains and poured its light in a golden tide on Los Angeles, saw multitudes asleep, and woke many of them, but had no power over the three who were about to battle for things they wanted so well that their desires seemed to be their rights.

All the laws of God and man seemed to be on the side of Amy Fleming, the deserted wife, sleeping alone in her home. Yet other laws or forces of nature were mustering their powers against her; and a storm was about to test whether or not that home was builded on a rock or on a foundation of sand.

Drowsiness had dulled Amy's resentments against her recreant husband and the siren Valerie, who was singing him to the reefs, as well as her resentment against her own evasive gallant Jimmy St. John. She herself was about to die away into a blissful and respectable nullity when she remembered that she had not said her prayers. She had forgotten them for a week or two.

At such a time she needed all the help there was. So she rolled out of bed to her pink knees and mumbled a slumbrous formula. She could not keep awake even in the awful presence she invoked, and she repeated over and over again like a prayer-wheel, the "forgive us our trespasses as we—forgive us our trespasses as we—forgive us as we—"

The sacrilege of yawning in the very face of her God startled her so that she went back to the beginning and made a brave "All right," she said. "If you name anyone else as co-respondent, I'll kill you."

effort to finish; but sleep flooded her brain and she could not get through to the

She leaned for a while braced on her brow and knees, and making a picture far more seductive than sacred. But at last she chilled in her thin gown and woke far enough to clamber into the sheets, cover herself and compose her members into a prim pose before she succumbed—a s suddenly and perfectly as if she had been hit on the head, with a

Many miles away, Valerie Dangerfield slept in a sinuous contortion of peculiar grace and pathos, her trunk and limbs abandoned in an attitude as lawless as her one ambi-

Downtown in his office building, where no one slept but himself and the night watchman, Blair Fleming was looking like nothing that any two women would be fighting for. He was stretched across two office chairs. His body's vain shifts for repose had shoved the chairs a part, and he formed a kind of suspension bridge between them. The daybreak woke him

to a physical misery so great that his spiritual distress was forgotten as he fought to get back once more into the bliss of oblivion.

The battle was futile, and giving it up at last, he stared about in amazement at finding himself in his office at such an hour. Unrefreshed, rumpled and much in need of a shave, he staggered to his feet.

Once erect, he realized his domestic plight and fell back into his chair again. His problem lay before him like an indictment; now he was one of those unfaithful husbands he had read about so often with so much contempt; he was one of those cads who desert their wives, one of those weakling fools who let an infatuation for a strange woman drag them into every kind of folly and infamy.

He wished that he had never met Valerie Dangerfield. Why couldn't she have let him alone? He had been happy enough with his pretty wife and his home and his cosy conformity to the rules of civilization.



Now he was pledged to pull down the rafters of his house on his own head. For an indefinite period he was to have no place to sleep. He had a gantlet of public contempt to run. And what reason had he to believe that he would be any happier with the new woman than the old? sto

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Love in the moonlight was like sweet wine at dinner, delicious for the moment, but—agh, what a morning-after taste!

He fell back and tried to sleep, but could find neither relaxation nor resolution. He rose and tottered to a huge inverted bottle of water, and pouring ice-water into his hand, slapped his face with it, and the back of his neck.

His protesting soul was tortured into a half-wakened protest. It made the desperate try of a foundered horse plunging in the shafts and got him to his office door. He went along the dim marble corridor, stole down the many stairways like a thief and found a taxicab after a long walk. The driver, boozy with broken sleep, sent it whanging profanely along the streets where the shops were still closed and only the prefatory people were astir. It

shot into a long tunnel where the dark was welcome and slumber stole upon Blair Fleming again. The glare of morning pierced his eyelids when the cab reissued into the light, and he struggled to keep awake and sit upright lest he look like a belated drunkard being carried home.

He smiled drearily to think how much trouble he was taking to escape the bad opinion of the few unimportant strangers who might see him, and how much trouble he was about to take

to secure the contempt of the whole public.

Fatigue threw him back to sleep as often as the swaying of the cab shook him out of it, and the long journey along the

His knees bent just enough to lift his feet up the steps. Like Mr. Gelett Burgess' feet, they hoisted him up the stairs. He did not even have to steer them. But they turned toward his wife's bedroom. They were also a little drowsy perhaps, and their memory was skipping over the recent past to an earlier.

He found his hand exactly on the knob, turned it softly, pressed a little, found that the door was locked, and only then realized just where he was. Strangely shocked at finding himself so much a machine, he let the knob turn gently back to its point of repose, then went a-tiptoe along the hall to his own door and

quietly entered there.



interminable avenues was a nightmare. He let himself into his house with a burglar's stealth. The curtains were drawn and it was still night indoors.

The hallway was strange to his new soul, but his muscles remembered it perfectly. He could not imagine that he had ever dwelt here or had any right in these chaste cloisters; yet his feet recalled where the rugs were and where the noisy bare floor. His right hand set his hat in the dark nicely on the Spanish bench. His shins recalled the old Spanish jar with the brass plaque on it that always fell with a wild alarm if he touched it. His elbow drew reminiscently to his side to avoid the tall candlestick that he was always knocking over. His hand went right to the rail of the stairway after circling the jar of flowers that sat there ready to crash down with a splash when incautiously approached.

The flowers had brave color but little odor—except when they were a day old. Then they stank. So did so many pretty

things!

curtains were up. The house next door was still asleep, but he hid himself in the bathrobe spread across the back of the bed-side chair.

He made his way to the bathroom, and as quietly as possible, he turned on what would eventually be the hot water. It was cold and noisy at first, but it would be hot in God's good time. While he waited, he brushed his teeth with fury, pondering the while a used razor blade with the awful solemnity of an ape, for fatigue had thrown him back an æon or two. He was debating whether the blade would stand another shave. At length he made the great resolve, and proceeded to begin his new life with a new wafer of steel. He was trying to figure out just what to say to Amy, but his drugged brain went round and round itself as hers had done in her prayers. Yet his hands, with exquisite dexterity, performed the incredibly numerous and perilous motions of shaving him without a single slip.

By this time his tub was full of smoking water, and he had to let half of it out and mix it with cold till it became endurable.

Then he settled down into its soothing embrace and promptly felt at peace with the world. He was submitting himself to the very treatment applied in insane asylums to violent patients in a crisis of violence with far better results than can be obtained by strait-

jackets or padded cells.

The peace was so sweet that sleep enveloped him in a steam of complete relaxation. He woke renewed after a vague period, and being chilled by the cooling water, rose and whipped up his circulation by turning on the shower on the wall at the head of his tub. He gave himself the full velocity of the current and began to glow scarlet with the icy flagellation. The noise of its impact on his flesh wakened his heart to song. It also wakened his distant wife, and angered her into slipping over the lacy per-forations of her nightgown a transparent tissue. She charged into his room and upbraided him.

HE did not hear her till he saw her, however. He had to turn off the water and rob himself of its tenuous drapery before he could understand more than the sleepy surliness of her pretty

"What's that?" he asked in the sudden hush, as his well-trained

hands drew the rubber curtain respectably about him.

"It seems to me you might have a little consideration for me!" she snapped. "Coming in at all hours and making a noise like

Niagara Falls!"

He was so blissfully rejuvenated that he laughed one of his best laughs—the very laugh that had first won Valerie Dangerfield to her devastating interest in him. But Amy was in no laughing humor. She whirled and left the room, banging the bathroom

This amused the awakened animal still more. The walls reverberated with his uproarious mirth. He scrubbed himself ruddier still with towels, chuckling brookishly as he stepped into and climbed into and buttoned and buckled himself into a completely

fresh costume.

By the time he was ready to face the world, he was ready to face his wife. A joyous sanity cleared his soul. He liked the world. He realized that in all its complexities, it was silly to make too much ado over a simple matter of dissolving a legal partnership that was no longer helpful to either member.

He was so blithe and brave that he walked into Amy's bedroom without knocking. He found her flouncing about trying to pound her head back to insensibility on a heap of hot pillows.

She sat up with an instinct of outraged privacy and demanded: "And now what do you want? Good Lord, can't I have a

minute's peace?" "You can have all the peace there is, my dear, so far as I'm concerned," he laughed. "In fact, I've just dropped in to say

that-'

"Well, if you have to go to your office at the peep of dawn, why do you have to wake me?" "But I'm not going to my office. That is, of course, I'm

going to my office; but afterward-

"What do I care where you go afterward? You stay out all night and all day, and—Lord, I might as well be divorced and done with it, for all I see of you."

"You might, indeed. And that-"

But she had flounced to her other side and was trying to burrow deep into slumber. All he saw of her was a mop of hair in a cañon of pillow, then a nape of neck that he had once thought a masterpiece of ivory carving; thereafter a many-wrinkled sprawl of sheet and coverlet over one high shoulder, a low waist, a mound of hip, thence a trailing away to where one heel and a glimpse of its sole escaped from the tumbled drapery.

SHE was already asleep again, and he had lost his momentum. It was hard to waken the poor thing and tell her that he was

ejecting her from his life forever.

Ancient habit was actually hoisting him to his tiptoes so that he could leave the room stealthily and not mar her slumbers. But he checked his flight, and with a murderer's resolution, determined that if it were done, 'twere well it were done quickly. Yet, like another Macbeth, he could not screw his courage to the sticking-place. He could not murder Amy in her sleep, or even murder her sleep.

As he wavered, he thought of Valerie. She stood by him, a Lady Macbeth, ridiculing the cowardice of wanting a thing and fearing to take it, urging him to valor in action as in desire.

He was more afraid of Valerie now, and of seeming craven in her esteem, than of being a brute in Amy's eyes. So at last he spoke:

"Amy."

She slept on, or pretended to. He tried again. He actually touched her shoulder. It took a deal of strength. . .

"Amy! "What?"

"Wake up." "I wont!

"You'd better. I've got something to tell you that you've got to hear."

She groaned, dragged herself round, sat up in a tangle of bed-clothes, yawned, hunched up her knees, crossed her hands on them and rested one round cheek on her dimpled knuckles as she sighed:

"Well, what is it? Go on! I'm—" She yawned from far ray. "I'm listening."

away. "I'm listening."
"You better listen, for this is the last time I'm going to interrupt your sleep. I'm giving you your freedom and taking my own."

She yawned and writhed and squeezed her eyes so hard that tears of drowsiness were pressed out of them. She mumbled:
"I d'know what you're talking a-"—yawn—"-bout and I don't
s'pose you do ei-"—yawn—"-ther."
"Oh, yes, I do."

She opened one eye and saw how red his face was and how distraught his gaze. She woke with a start:

"Where were you all last night? And what did you have to drink?"

"Nothing."

"That snippy secretary of yours phoned that you had a conference with some mysterious client.'

"Those were my instructions."

She stared at him through half-shut eyelids a long while. Suddealy she shot a glance at him with a javelin impact, and gasped: "You were with Valerie Dangerfield!"

BLAIR was thrown into disarray by her absolutely illogical, unfounded, irrational, insane accuracy. His first instinct was to keep Valerie's name out of the discussion. For that purpose, and in genuine disgust with her blundering luck in stumbling over the truth he had concealed so elaborately, he answered:
"You're talking in your sleep. Wake up!"

She woke up. She came piling out of the bedclothes, landing on all fours with a ferret litheness and ferocity.

"Don't try to lie to me. You never could, and you needn't be-now. You were with Valerie Dangerfield last night."

He tried a gentlemanly perjury:
"I was not. You have no right to drag her name into this.
Can't a man and woman ever disagree over anything without another woman being concerned?"
"No! And why haven't I the right to drag her into it? She

began it, didn't she? She dragged you out of your home last

night, didn't she?"

"I tell you-"Oh, don't try to tell me anything. Your own face tells me all I want to know—and more too. A conference with a client! Hah—a pretty client! Well, she'll be a client, all right. She'll be a co-respondent! That's what she'll be! And you can be her lawyer. I'll get one of my own. You can have all the conferences you want with her, then. But they'll be in the headlines, instead of the moonlight."

He realized the terrific power the newspapers have given the gossips, multiplying the glib tongue of a gossip into the clapper of an enormous bell. How could he stop her, now that she was started? He regarded her with abject fright for what she might

become and do. He pleaded:

"Amy, in heaven's name, be reasonable." "Reasonable! Oh, I'll be reasonable. Just you watch me! Valerie Dangerfield! Huh! She thinks she's so smart. She thinks she can take anything she wants. And she decided to take you. She wont keep you long! She'il make a fool of you and then move on to the next one. But she wont find me quite so easy as she found you. Humph! Well, hardly! I guess not! I'll just show that lady who she's fighting with! Hah!"

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He could not come at her mind to wrestle with it. It darted about the world like a bat, sinister, uncanny, always somewhere

And with every phrase she flung, she caught at her wrap, thrust an arm here, an arm there, snatching it about her with an instinctive feeling of modesty in the presence of this familiar man who had suddenly become a stranger.

Blair stared at Amy with the stupidity of a St. Bernard who has cornered a feline maniac and wishes he could back out of the engagement without being slashed to ribbons. He had



He understood what it must mean to be smitten with a paralytic stroke.

lost his running start and all the majesty of his honest intentions. His lawyer-mind could think of nothing but that her attack was wholly unwarranted by anything before the court. It was "in-competent, irrelevant and immaterial." Yet it was unanswerable. He tried to quiet the irate witness who was browbeating the

district attorney.

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"Now, Amy, don't fly off the handle. Let's talk this over

quietly and sanely."
"He admits it!" she shrieked. "He admits it! He comes in and wakes his poor wife out of her sleep to tell her that he's been out all night with another woman and intends to run off with her."

"Have you gone insane? I never said a word about—"
"Of course you didn't! You didn't have to! It's written all over your face! But just you wait, Blair Fleming! If you and your Miss Dangerfield imagine for one moment that you can calmly chuck me overboard after all the years I've slaved for you and—" "Oh, Amy, in God's name, don't disgrace yourself with such-"

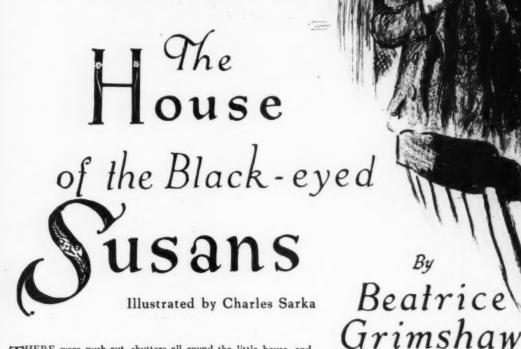
"Disgrace myself! Me! Me disgrace myself! And now he's trying to pretend that it's me that's disgracing myself!"

She was appealing to some invisible audience with a vividness that foreshadowed the real public waiting to listen all too avidly to her outcries.

She began to pace the floor, tossing her arms up as if she flung petitions at the sky, then bringing her hands down to clench her head as if to hold it together, and anon beating her poor breasts with her fists so hard that Fleming winced for her.

She cried; she laughed; she played all sorts of scenes, with grimaces, bows, ironic gesticulations, tears, sneers, cachinnations, protestations of saintly repugnance for the undaintiness of certain people, then streams of so foul an implication that Fleming recoiled in terror from such a mind.

One moment he wanted to strike her to the floor, then to gather her in his arms as if she were a hurt child; next, he felt that if he touched her he would be contaminated. (Continued on page 160) With perhaps the single exception of the late Louis Becke, no one has written more vividly of the South Seas than Beatrice Grimshaw, who fared thither twenty years ago, and has returned to her native England but once since. At present she is living in Port Moresby, Papua.



THERE were push-out shutters all round the little house, and within the oblong of every one a different picture was framed: Enormous spaces of celadon-blue sea; islands of pyramid shape, painted in flaming greens; masses of croton, colored like the burning bush of Moses; the tops of palm trees, flashing heliograph messages to other palms far off; slopes of tall kuru-kuru grass; sea, and more sea again. From this small bungalow, set high to catch the winds, you could look out across incredible spaces—could feel, as on the beaches below, you never could have felt, that sense of the map and of your own position on it, that comes now and then to stretch a man's mind and make him

pleasantly uncomfortable.

Lying on her cane lounge in the middle of the room, where it was coolest, Suzanne Plummer could not see out of the windows. She did not want to see out. She wanted to stay very quiet, with a glass jug of water at her elbow, to feel the little breeze from the mountain-top blow down across her forehead, to see, unseeingly, her small beautiful feet in their white shoes lying in front of her on the red cushions of the lounge moveless from dawn till dusk, and the frost-like laces of her dress stir and fall, stir and fall, across her helpless knees, while she drifted, painlessly, quietly, out into the dark. There was an old native woman to give her drink from time to time; to bring her, now and then, in a glass, little dark drops that smelt of poppies and Suzanne had all she wanted-if she were permitted so much. She, once famous by her nickname of Black-eyed Susan, on stages of cheap "halls," in gold-mining camps of Australia, behind the bars of Sydney's gayest night "hotels;" she who had been hung with jewels, and could have bathed in champagneshe asked nothing now but the water, and the quiet, and the dark drops of oblivion that between them were helping her painlessly down the road from which there is no returning.

And she could not have them much longer—not long enough, it might be, for the coming of the slow, certain end.

Since dawn that day a black cloud had hovered over Compass Island—so named because of the spurs that projected almost north, south, east and west from its central mountain. The heat of the day was increasing hour by hour, the breeze dying down, or coming in fierce sudden gusts that made the shutters swing and slam, and set afloat the laces on Suzanne's gown. Under the

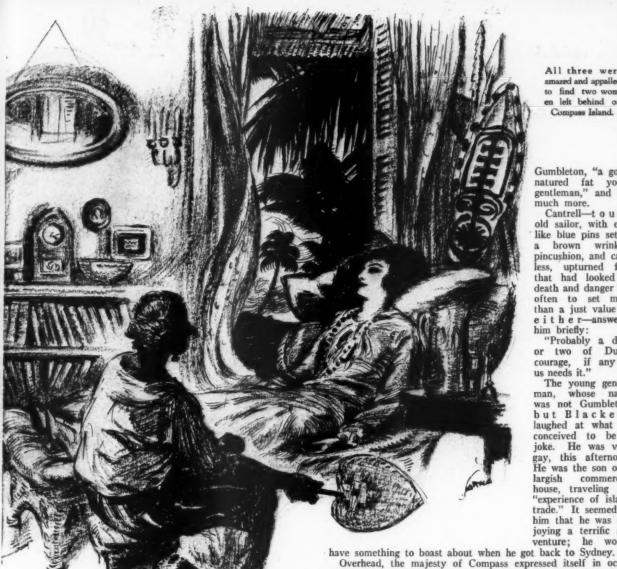
house, at times, deep down, you could hear a strange, disquieting noise like the boiling of some enormous kettle. From the distant top of the island came once and again a shot that shook the house, and sent the china flying from the shelves. Then there would be quiet for hours; and then the sinister boiling and the shots would recommence.

Compass was "playing up."

She had not played up, now, for more than a generation; there was nobody left alive who had seen the small "Pyramids" spat forth—two islands lying half a mile from the mainland, out at sea. She (a volcano is always feminine, among people who live near burning mountains) had lain quiet, almost cool, for all that time; and natives had built villages, and traders and recruiters had called in the palm-circled bay below, without let or hindrance from the barren cone that topped the greenery of Compass Island. After, had come the gold discovery: the rush from Australia and New Zealand, the working out of the little, rich field, and its abandonment. And all the time, tall Compass had held her peace. And people had said, as in like case they commonly do say, that she was burned out, done.

Three weeks ago she had given the lie to them-all, by sending up a flag of smoke from her cone—sign sinister, not to be despised or neglected, by those who know the ways of volcanoes. Ships had been passing seldom of late; but one saw the smoke-flag, and carried news on to the Sullivan Islands, where the big trading-stores are, and the plantations of coconuts. The white folk of the Sullivans rather thought that everyone had left Compass; however, they arranged for one call of a trading ketch, just to be sure. There might be some one there who would want to be taken off. And to be left marooned on a little island consisting mostly of a burning mountain is, as Pacific people know, one of the worst things that can happen to you between Alaska and the South Shetlands.

It is a long way from the Sullivans to Compass. Winds proved contrary; the ketch had no engine, and none too good a crew. By the time the *Island Lady* had sighted the cone, there was no flag visible on it any more. Instead there was a mushroom; and



All three were amazed and appalled find two women left behind on Compass Island.

Gumbleton, "a goodnatured fat young gentleman," and not much more.

Cantrell-t o u g h old sailor, with eyes like blue pins set in a brown wrinkled pincushion, and careless, upturned face that had looked at death and danger too often to set more than a just value on e i t h e r-answered him briefly:

"Probably a drop or two of Dutch courage. if any of us needs it."

The young gentleman, whose name was not Gumbleton, but Blackett, laughed at what he conceived to be a joke. He was very gay, this afternoon. He was the son of a largish commercial house, traveling for "experience of island trade." It seemed to him that he was enjoying a terrific adventure; he would

Overhead, the majesty of Compass expressed itself in occasional thunders, laced with red lightning; there was that about it that seemed to make the noble feelings of commercial young gentlemen and others look very small.

Perhaps the third man thought so. At any rate, he said nothing at all, as they landed and began making their way up

the long, steep track that led to Plummer's bar.

WITHIN the shelter of the shuttered room Suzanne began to wake from the heavy lethargy that commonly held luring the hot hours of noontide. There was no sun to her during the hot hours of noontide. be seen today; an ugly, early dusk had gripped the island; in the oblongs of the open shutters, the glory of sea and palms had faded to black silhouettes set on gray. It was a little cooler, but the sounds of boiling underfoot went on, and far above, every few minutes, the mountain sent forth an angry bellow.

She seemed to be warning-holding herself in, with impatience, yet holding-for the time.

The noises of the day had not very much troubled Blackeyed Susan, who had so nearly done with it all. Still, moved by the feverish awakening that came with afternoons, she stirred a little, lifting the smooth arms and hands that lay on her lace robe, and turned her head. Like dead feet, the tiny arched feet on the cushion kept still.

From her hair, onyx-black, piled high in Spanish fashion, the native, smoothing the heavy locks, loosened a red chain. It fell upon the floor, "Put it back, Mahina," she murmured, turning her eyes toward the monkeylike old creature who sat crouched beside her.

"Plenty more stop," said the native a little sulkily. nodded toward the open door, where, trembling a little in the

when you see a mushroom growing on the top of a volcano, where recently a banner streamed to the wind, you had to get done with your business quickly, and clear away.

When the six colored seamen of the Island Lady came under the lee of Compass, and saw that the camp was gone, and even the native villages deserted, they made considerable protest. They had wives in the Sullivans (they told Cantrell, the captain), and some of them had children too. Where was the sense of running right into danger, when anyone could see that the

place was empty as a turtle-shell the night after a feast?
"That's all right," said Cantrell obstinately. "Get to your work. You don't do the thinkin' this trip. I've no use for a native when he takes to thinkin'," he went on, addressing one of his two passengers. "He's not built for that sort of cargo; it strains his bilge if he tries to load it. Whereas, if you keep him to light, floatable sort of stuff, he— Yes, I'm goin' ashore myself. Yes, you can both come with me, if you like; your lives is your own concern. I don't reckon there's as much as a flea left alive in the place, or we'd have been signaled somehow or other, but owner's orders is owner's orders; and the manager, he said I was to get up to Plummer's pub' and have a look round. Good customers of the firm, those Plummers—we've shipped them that much high-class liquor that it would surprise

"Think there's any of it left, by any chance?" asked the younger of the two men, who was, like the immortal Pepys'

afternoon wind, the "Black-eyed Susans" of the bush hung on their stems—scar-let seeds, each with a jetty eye at one end, known to island children and to natives as priceless jewels, strung into a hundred different ornaments, hoarded

up like coin.
"Put it back!" screamed Suzanne, suddenly waking to angry life. Never since the girlhood days when she had flown from a "cocky" Queensland farm to Sydney, since the first of her three marriages and two divorces, had Blackeyed Susan been seen without what she called her good-luck chain. She had broken, lost, worn out a dozen or two; but there were always more to be had. In the marvelous masses of her hair, fine as feathers and black as onyx stone, there was always, night or day, a threaded chain of the scarlet seeds that bore her name. Sometimes the coil competed with a string of diamonds; sometimes it consorted, badly, with a rose; but it was always there. Once, in a music-hall, another entertainer had said sneeringly, looking at the chain, that she understood the fine points of advertisement better than most. Suzanne had slapped the woman-and afterward paid her agent an extra pound or two to see that the slap got due press value. But she had gratified nobody's curiosity about her mascot, not even the agent's.

Mahina, who was faithful, if occasionally ill-tempered, bent to pick up the chain, and gave it back. Suzanne re-placed it carefully. She breathed hard as she sank back on her pillows; she was growing very weak. "Not gone yet, though," she told herself. "Not by a good sight." And she cast a hungry glance at the sky, the palms in the window openings. Suzanne, the great lover, loved life-else, she had parted with it

long before this day.

was on this scene that Cantrell, Blackett, and the third man, Ireland, came, from a pathway so overgrown with weeds and grasses as to suggest, almost irresistibly, emptiness and desertion.

About the door of the house the wild scarlet-flowered salvia and the scarletseeded Susans struggled unchecked. No one had passed through, it seemed, for weeks. If Mahina wanted water, she got it from the tank at the back; the food was all within-doors. To look at the house, you would have thought no soul survived.

"Empty, I reckon," declared the Captain, crashing through the weeds. "All the better—listen to that!" he added. The men following him had already lis-

tened to it; it was a shot from the crater above, that with its sheer detonation had loosened hundreds of big stones and set them rolling.

"Next might come a lot nearer," he said. "They did well to clear out." He entered the shuttered room, and came straight upon

Mahina and Suzanne.

Suzanne had heard them coming; with the ineradicable instinct of the woman who lives to please, she had reached for a hand-mirror, patted her ivory-smooth checks with a powder-puff, and drawn a red stick across her lips. Powder and lipstick brought out, in startling contrast, the lime-white paleness of her face, the amazing blackness of her deeply hooded eyes. Cantrell was new on the run; he had never seen this woman, but instantly he knew who she was. "My God, you're Black-eyed Susan!" he said to her. "What the hell are you doing here?"

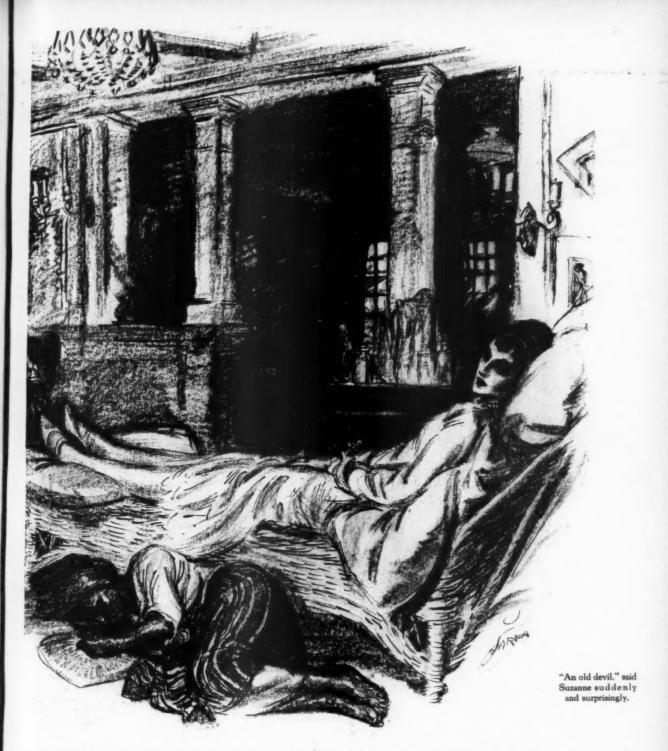


He was in the doorway; the other men stood bunched behind him, looking over his shoulder. All three were equally amazed and appalled, to find two women left behind on Compass-Compass,

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which was "playing up."

"Mr. Plummer, he stay," volunteered Mahina, crouching beside Suzanne, and waving, mechanically, a pandanus fan. "Me stay too. We have to pack up all the clothes, all the chair, the table. Mr. Plummer's boys they stay down below; they take care for the whaleboat for him. Two week ago we go out to look at this mountain; she start to play up; she shake all the road, all the stone of the road. Road on top fall down on road at bottom. Mrs. Plummer, she was hit. Mr. Plummer, his head broke and he killed. The boys were very much frighten', and then they takes the whaleboat and went away. Me, I stop; I don't like to leave Mrs. Plummer."



She took up the fan, which she had laid down, and went on

"Lord," said Cantrell comprehensively, mopping his brow. The heat, the black, brooding heat of the afternoon, was terrible. "What's the matter with her?" he asked bluntly.

It was Black-eyed Susan who answered him. broken," she said. "My back's

There was a dismayed silence. Through it the black woman monotonously flapped her fan; the sound of waves, a long way below, came faintly through the opened shutters. Underfoot one could feel the island boiling—boiling—

It was the good-natured fat young gentleman who spoke first,

and what he said appeared barely relevant.

"I'm going to be married next month," was his remark.

"Mrs. Plummer," sharply demanded Cantrell, "are you quite

helpless? Could you stand it if we carried you to the—"
"My good man," she replied,—slowly, for the drops of night "My good man," she replied,—slowly, for the drops of night and sleep were still in her brain,—"I've never moved my legs since the landslide, and I just didn't die when the boys carried me in."

"If you'll pardon me," said Ireland suddenly, "I'm only a commercial, but I did a year at doctoring once. Let me have a look at her."

They withdrew a little way, standing among the scarlet flowers outside. The Captain simply waited; he was used to waiting. Blackett lighted a cigarette with fingers somewhat uncertain, and to an entirely inattentive audience of one repeated the news about his marriage. Above, the cone of Compass was silent. She seemed-strangely-to be waiting too.

Ireland came out. (Continued on page 151)



Communistic rankfurters

Py Arthur Mason

"Once a sailor, always a sailor," does not quite hold good with Arthur Mason, whose sea-tales often appear in these pages. For he's settled in a village on the Riviera and swallowed his anchor, as they say of sailors who become landsmen. There he is writing his sailing life and more tales for Red Book readers.

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THE new schooner Clippsky was lying at anchor in San Francisco bay awaiting the crew who were to deliver her to her Mexican owners. One thousand dollars had been promised her captain the day he landed her—minus, of course, wages of the crew, and the cost of food to feed them. He meant to have the long end of that thousand, for that was Captain Crisp's way of doing.

He was a short, thick-set man, paunchy and square-shouldered, with a large furry face and head, eyes that were small and cunning, and as shifty as a weathervane. As he came up out of the cabin he looked away across the bay with bleary eyes, and yawned loudly. The only other living creature on board, a yellowish-looking sheep-dog, approached him, barking. The Captain squinted at him.

"What's bitin' you?" he asked; then the dog licked his hand, and the Captain patted him.

"I need two men to run her south, Pete," he said to the dog. "I'm goin' ashore to get 'em. Watch the schooner, boy."

The dog seemed to understand, for he stood with lowered tail motionless, watching, as his master lowered himself carefully over the rail to a smallboat that swung to a painter, and pulled away toward the city.

As he approached the wharf his eye was caught by the derelict-

figure of a man who was sitting there fishing. Two men, evidently sailors, from the cut of their pilot-cloth suits and their cheese-cutter caps, were standing watching him. Captain Crisp, feeling that his luck was with him, hurriedly tied up the boat and joined them puffingly.

"Are you men lookin' for a ship?" he asked.

They wheeled around on straddled legs.
"We are, and we aint," said one, the slimmer of the two.
"—Aint that right, Sam?"

The other nodded.

"Nowadays," continued the Captain, "any man wants to make a chunk of money."

Their eyes bulged a little. "Aye, they does."

"Well, listen to what I have to offer."

The Captain leaned the flat surface of himself up against a

dolphin, and his eyes narrowed to gimlet-holes filled with ink. "I want two sailors to go with me on a run to Guaymas, Mexico. Listen, me hearties: I'm paying fifty dollars—do you hear that? And we wont be a week at sea. There's other concessions besides. All you'll have to do will be to reef and steer, and there'll be damned little reefing in the weather we're goin' to have."

The tall sailor, looking his doubts, was for walking away.

Sam caught him by the arm.

"Keep on talkin'," he said. "Don't mind Jack."

"Well, as I was sayin', the grub'll be good. Why, I'm furnishin' it. Do I look like a man what would starve himself for the sake of a bit o' money?"

"We agrees with you," said Jack dryly; "you don't."
Sam jingled some coins in his pocket.
"Where's your ship, and what's her rig?"

That's the way I like to hear you talk," answered the Cap-m. "There's the Clippsky out there. Come now, make up your minds in a hurry. Fifty dollars aint hangin' on piles."

They consulted:

'She's small," Jack whispered.

"She is that; she'd be easy for you and me, Jack."

"Do you furnish the chow?" Sam asked of Captain Crisp. "Fifty-fifty on the eats," said Captain Crisp, "share and share alike. I'm a man what has a heart, I am."

"Me and my mate'll talk it over." And Jack towed Sam away up the wharf to a spot from which the view of the Clippsky's master was to his size as a tadpole is to a frog.

I aint trusting him much-'e's a gabbler," he said Listen, Jack; the fifty's easy, and the chuck will be good. I knows it from the looks of him. I says try her out.

So they told the Captain, and he sent them after their bags. and himself went off to buy provisions. But as he went, there lurked an evil smile of satisfied greed about the corners of his mouth which Jack and Sam might have profited to see. His

thoughts carried with him as far as a neighboring grocery store, where he watched the scales register weights of hardtack, sugar and coffee.

"I'm not laying in supplies for the Arctic," he told the man. "Yes, I'll take a bit of rice; it's good for sailors. Spuds there'll be none. Canned meat? No, sirree! The Clippsky's no floating club for a pair of windblown lubbers like those!"

"Well, Captain," said the clerk, venturing another attack, "surely a big man like you needs a bit finer food than a common sailor. Now, here is something that is real eating. Look at 'em. Frankfurters, baby frankfurters!"

He held out a glass jar as though he were sicking a dog onto a The Captain stood fascinated; his his eyes widened; hand trembled as he reached for them. The clerk, watching him turn the jar round and round looking at the clustered morsels, rushed in for his close-up.

"There's a shortage of salmon," he said. "A man has to have something for his breakfast, don't he?"

The Captain gulped. "How many are in a case?" asked shortly.

"Twenty-four," said the clerk.

"I'll take a case of them, but mind you wrap them up well;

sailors are suspicious these days.

As the clerk wound yards of wrapping-paper around the box of frankfurters, destroying the evidence of their identity, the Captain's mind was seesawing as to how he would dispose of it on board. There was, however, no thought in his mind of sharing his baby reds with Jack and Sam; they could eat hardtack, fill themselves full of it, for all he cared, but never a frankfurter would be cut by tooth of theirs.

"There you are, Captain, everything ready-twenty-two dollars and seventy-five cents. . . . That's it. Thank you. I'll just put them on the wagon for you. Good-by, Captain. I hope you enjoy your little feed. Call around again soon."

Their bags were Sam and Jack were waiting on the wharf. already in the smallboat, and there was that in their patient poise that bespoke peace of mind. Possibly the thought of the fifty dollars had something to do with it; more likely it was the realization that this trip, at least, they would have all they wanted to eat. They rose to greet the Captain as he alighted from the

"Now, men," he said, "hurry these packages into the boat, and let's get away to sea. To peace and contentment," he added

with his eye on the frankfurters.

Sam was passing the package to Jack. It aint for us to see, judging from the wrappings, Jack."

m smelled of

"Sausages!

he grunted.

"Might it be grog, Sam?"
"Might be, Jack." Sam's tongue found the rim of his rough lips.

As they rowed off to the Clippsky, their eyes often sought the package and rested upon it softly, and visions arose of the pipe and the noggin of rum that makes the sailorman shoulder a gale with never a growl.

It was only when the Clippsky dog sniffed at the frankfurter-box as it came aboard, that the Captain spoke.

"Go on away with you, you tactless brute," he said.

Sam and Jack car-ried their bags to the forecastle, admiring, as they went, the beauty of the schooner.

"She's a 'ome, Sam -a 'appy, cozy little

"Aye!" And Sam's eves blinked with pride.

The Captain's squint followed them till they turned into the forecastle; then he dived down into the cabin

with the box of frankfurters and shoved them under his bunk. Back again to the deck he ran, shifty-eyed.

"Here, men, carry your grub to the galley and keep it there; when you're hungry, eat; that's the way to run a ship. I've been a sailor in the forecastle myself, and I know what it is to have a hunger on. There'll be none of that here. Stuff yourselves, men-get the feeling that the schooner belongs to you."

"'E's 'uman," whispered Jack.
"He is that," said Sam, and whistling happily he picked up the hardtack and carried it to the galley. The whistle turned into a lively chanty as the order came to heave up the anchor, and the happy crew walked it into the hawsepipe.



Sail was made, and the schooner stood away through the Golden Gate and out to the open sea. The Captain was at the wheel, 'the dog lying at his feet. Jack was coiling down rope, and Sam went into the galley to cook a meal for all hands. As he lighted the fire, the blaze reflected the satisfaction in his face. Never in all the thirty years of his seagoing life had such liberality been shown him, and he thought of other sailors now, poor men, as he was once, arguing with greasy lemon-extract cooks over the faded lump

of margarine that was to grease their hardtack, and the hemplike sowbelly that went with it. His eyes roved approvingly over the packages. There they stood, tightly tied and neatly covered. He rolled up his blue shirt-sleeves and went to work, with hairy, knotty, clever hands.

As he cut the strings and opened the bags, his expression changed. Anxiety crept in, and a chiseling stare. He threw the coffee aside, and stuck his head out of the galley door. face hung in limp wrinkles.

"Say, Jack, come 'ere.'
"Wot is it, Sam?"
"Look!"

Jack scratched his head as his gaze followed his shipmate's pointing finger. His eyes seemed to enter bags with radium thoroughness.

"Not a blarsted bit o' meat?

"No, nor no grease, neither. Don't get roily, Jack; don't do nothing 'asty.

He moistened dry lips. In the distance the skipper twirled his wheel as though the steering of the schooner were an act requiring giant

"They'll be aft, presently," he thought. Sam's voice had the sound of crackling ice. "We'll bide our time," he said. "If he eats this here grub, us will too. But I've me suspicions. There's knicknacks in that package he

stole from the poop; mind what I tell you."
"Gar blyme, Sam, if 'e's cheating us, I'll bash

is blooming 'ead!"

'Not yet, mate. It takes a long time for the wee waves to reach the shore, but they gets

there; they does, sure-yes, sure.

So they agreed merely to suspect the skipper of the Clippsky, postponing punishment until such time as he should be caught reneging fair and square. Side by side they sat eating, and their flangy teeth gripped the biscuits and crunched them to a crumble. Then with cof-fee the color of soot they washed their leathery throats.

That night Sam had the first wheel from eight to twelve. The breeze out of the westward was moderate, the sea smooth, and the schooner, clear of land now, headed away south. Captain came up out of the cabin eating some-

thing that sounded soft. He avoided Sam and walked to windward, followed by his dog. Sam's suspicious nose told him nothing, but in the starlight he could see Captain Crisp throw something to his dog. The animal jumped for it with a wild bound, and gobbled

it down.
"That'll do for you," said the Captain. "Aint you got no shame at all?

"She's a fine little vessel," he called over to Sam.

"Aye, she is that."
"Well, I'll go below and take a snooze for myself. If you need me, rap on the porthole."

Five minutes later Sam let go the wheel and crawled on his hands and knees to that part of the deck where the dog had licked up what the Captain gave him. He smelled of it with a nose as keen as a bloodhound's, and finding a tiny fragment that had been overlooked, sampled it third hand. His eyes had a lunar glow as he

backed to the wheel. A smothered thought burst out. sages!" he grunted.

At twelve o'clock he called Jack to relieve him. There was a hurried conference, ending in a decision. Jack went aft to the wheel; Sam, with a pursed mouth and ferret eyes, entered the galley and carted all the eatables from there into the forecastle. There was determination in his manner as he doused the glim and spread a blanket over himself in his bunk.

When daylight came, the breeze was fresher, and quite a jabble of a sea was in the making. When the sun came up, he had a liverish look about him, and jaundiced clouds hung on the hori-The Clippsky was now carrying white, sizzling bone in her teeth. The Captain, yawning, walked forward to the galley. Sam stood leaning over the weather rail, smoking.

"What's happened in here?" shouted the master, as he piped the cold nakedness of the place. "Been stealing your

own grub?"

"Aye, that we have," answered Sam yly. "When you aint sharin', we aint dryly. sharin' "

"Ho-ho, so that's the type of men I

have for a crew!

"Didn't you tell us this was a sort of partition affair, share and share alike with me and Jack? Well, you lied to us. How does I know it? Because I Because I caught you eating sausages last night."

The Captain's eyes flattened to the

deck, his pink ears grew red; he looked the picture of the guilty glutton. Sam

"You eat in your part of the ship; we'll eat in ours, and each of us will keep what us has.

The Captain raised his head; there was a fox-trick look in his eyes. He knew that with the grub in the forecastle there was no use bluffing. "Look here," he said. "Yo

"You fellows don't give a man a chance to be good to you. I was going to cook breakfast for all of us this morning; hot frankfurters we were going to have. Aint it natural for me to sample them first? But now I've changed my mind, and you can go on your own. Do you hear that?"

"That will suit us," Sam said nervously.

He looked too serious to suit the Captain, and it was a long way to Mexi-

co-on frankfurters.
"I aint the man," went on the Captain, "that wouldn't make a sacrifice for his crew, even if they are brutes, but since you doubted me, my heart is ruf-fled. Even at that I'll make you a proposition. Mind it is just out of the goodness of my heart, and to keep you happy and peaceful. We'll play poker for the frankfurters, winner take all. Aint that fair? Where would you find another man that would give you a chance like that to redeem yourselves?"
"It's a go," said Sam; "we'll play.

I'll go and put it up to Jack."

The skipper went into the cabin; Jack and Sam hung over the wheel in deep conversation. The wind was coming stronger now, and off yonder the sea was whipping white.

"You play him, Jack."

"No, Sam, I'll steer. Blyme, if I lost, we'd starve to death. It's a terrible venture, staking all that grub."

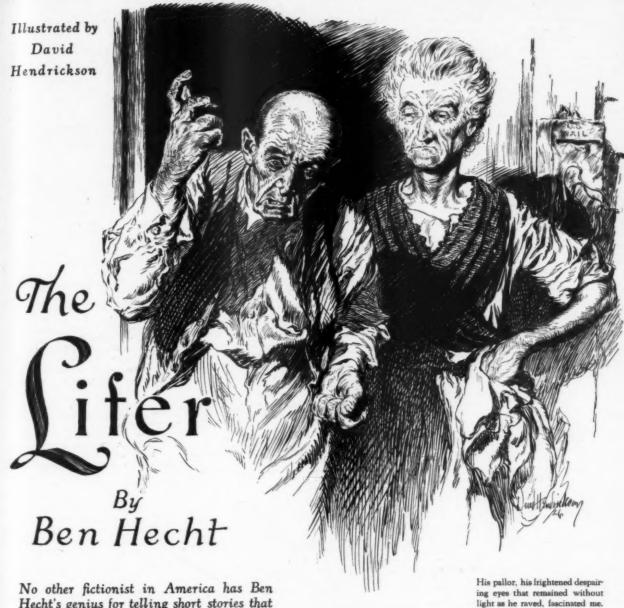
"It's a lot of (Continued on page 142)



Two heads were tossing about—one of a frantic man, one of a despairing dog.

expe crim ment enter Bu chari

"stor of h didn' dition paper On



No other fictionist in America has Ben Hecht's genius for telling short stories that are really short—like this one. And he always writes to the point—a point, moreover, that is frequently barbed, as here and now, in this very brief tale of a Chicago reporter's assignment and what it produced.

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THERE were many things my city editor looked forward to.

Murders, seductions and catastrophes were part of his cruder
expectations. They sold newspapers. A particularly atrocious
crime was, to my city editor, no more and no less than a shipment of ties, socks, suspenders and other staples might be to an
enterprising haberdasher.

But in his daily expectations my city editor included many charming and almost literary plots. He liked things to happen—"stories to break"—whose facts and color might reveal the drama of human emotion rather than human event. These incidents didn't sell papers to any great extent, but they kept alive the tradition that journalism was something of an art, and that a newspaper was not a mere record of abnormal calamities.

One morning, opening his assignment book, in the back of

which he kept his "futures" on file, my city editor smiled with the sudden sweetness of a child and beckoned me to his desk. "Do you know who Sam Janney is?" he asked; and when I

"Do you know who Sam Janney is?" he asked; and when I shook my head, he continued: "Well, twenty-eight years ago Sam Janney killed a man in a quarrel over a woman he loved. He's been in the penitentiary ever since. He gets out today. Hop a train for Joliet and see what you can do with that."

He paused, tilted his head up at me and added sarcastically: "I think you ought to be able to get a story out of Sam Janney, don't you?"

"I'll call up the warden first," I countered, "and verify it."
My city editor frowned. He would have liked more enthusiasm.
He was continually reading newspaper stories in magazines, in which reporters on receiving assignments grabbed their hats and leaped out of the local room like high-strung chargers smelling the battle from afar.

"Here's some more dope," he added irritably. "Mrs. Julia Grossman,—that's the name of the woman he killed the man over,—she's married and lives at 22—West Lake Street. It wont do any harm to get her into the story."

It was lucky I thought of calling up the warden before hopping a train for his penitentiary. Sam Janney, he told me, had been discharged quietly and secretly two days ago. "I think," concluded the warden after he

had given me enough details of Sam's life in prison to serve my purpose, "I think you can find him at the home of some people named Grossman. He told me he was going to stop there till he got on his feet." At 22— West Lake Street I found a small

frame house adjoining a junk-yard piled with old tires and rusty automobile skeletons. had the feeling that Sam, the lifer, didn't want any publicity, and this prompted me to do a little scouting around before ringing the Grossman bell and asking for him.

I inquired at the garage next to the junkyard and found out what I wanted to know. Yes, Sam Janney was staying with the Gross-mans next door. A number of people in the neighborhood knew about him. He was a lifer from Joliet, had done twenty-eight years for murder, and everybody was curious to get a look at him. But he kept inside.

"He's a little baldheaded man," said the garage owner. "I saw him for a few minutes last night, sitting on the porch with the

Grossmans.

It would have cheered my city editor to see me at this particular moment and would have revived his faith in the reporters he read about in fiction stories. Nevertheless I did not dash for the Grossman door. One does not approach drama running and out of

WALKED slowly, thinking of Sam Janney, of how strange life must seem to him after twenty-eight years, of how bewildered he must feel, and wondering what his point of view would be. I thought also of this Julia Grossman. She had been a young woman of twenty-five when he had loved her and killed a man "for her sake." How strange, how ironic, this passion of his youth must seem to him now as he sat in her home, his sunken eyes staring probably at a buxom elderly woman; staring at her as if she were a stranger, as if he had never known her and vet knowing that on account of her he had lain buried behind prison walls. How absurd and incomprehensible his crime must seem to him—this crime committed out of an emotion which had died long ago. The story, I reflected, mounting the porch, would have to be written simply, and with overtones.

I rang the bell twice and finally heard footsteps inside. A thin, wrinkled woman with shrewish eyes, tight lips and a mottled

skin stood in the dorway.

"Are you Mrs. Julia Grossman?" I asked.

"Yes" the assurand in Santa and a motived she answered in a rasping voice. What do you want?"

A small, baldheaded man appeared behind her as I went on.

"I want to talk to Sam Janney. I'm from

the News."

Whereupon the baldheaded man stepped to her side, and I found myself with a thrill looking into a pair of sunken eyes, regarding a lined and pallid face.

"You get out o' here," he cried. "Go on get out!"
"I just want to ask a few questions." I

smiled at the little man.
"Yeah, I know what you want!" he shouted viciously. His hands were shaking, and a rage twisted his face as he continued to discharge insult and epithet at me as a representative of that vilest of all things-the press. I was not averse to listening, for behind his rage I felt the years of his suffering. They were in the inflections of his wordsthe twenty-eight years of prison. His pallor, frightened, despairing eyes that remained

without light as he raved, fascinated me.
"You come buttin' in here trying to dig
up dirt," he was shouting. "You can't leave
people alone. You're worse than all o' them.
All o' them." And with this cry, he made a gesture that included the spring street, the faded buildings and the sounds of life in the

His voice was so ineffectual, his very gestures seemed so starved and puny, that I got a distasteful impression of myself as part of the horrible and merciless thing that had hounded him for twenty-eight years. I was part of "all o' them"—all the things he had yearned for behind prison walls, and learned at length to hate in his despair over losing them.

I looked at the woman who was glower-ing and mumbling behind him. Contempt and irritation were in her eyes as they rested on the little man's shaking figure. Her too he had lost. Moving around in his prison, shut away behind walls, he had lost her, and youth, and the feel of life in his veins. this reason I felt there was a story in his rage, and I stood listening and nodding until the woman cried out, pulling at his sleeve: "Don't pay any attention to him."

S HE pushed him indignantly aside and slammed the door. The drama was blotted out. I walked slowly back to the garage, wondering how much of a story I had. It might come off quite effectively, if I wrote it well—the rage and bitterness of a lifer re-leased after twenty-eight years, his horror of the world that had chained him behind prison walls; the endless years of suffering re-vealed in his face, in his sunken eyes; the endless years of monotony and despair that had unfitted him for living, that had made him unable to talk, to gesture, almost to breathe.

The garage man beckoned me toward his

private office.

"There he is," he whispered, "just askin' me for a job. Yeah, that's Sam Janney," he added, noticing my astonishment. "Go on-he'll talk to you. He seems a nice fella. I'm goin' to put him to work washin' down cars and sortin' junk in the yard. Hey, Mr. Janney," he called, "come here a minute."

A thin man, slightly stooped, came out of the shadows and moved obediently toward

"Are you Sam Janney who was released two days ago?" I asked. The thin man nodded. A vague, friendly

"Who was the man I talked to in the Grossman home?" I asked the garage owner, "—small, baldheaded, deep-set eyes."

er, "—small, baldheaded, deep-set eyes."
"Oh, you got the wrong one," he smiled.
"That's old George Grossman. Quite a character around here. Been living in that cottage for twenty-five years."
"Yes," spoke up Sam Janney softly.
"That's poor Julia's husband."
I talked to Sam Janney for an hour. But

the edge was off the story for me. His slow, gentle words, his childlike answers, his un-expected oaths, uttered without vehemence, failed to hold my imagination. I kept thinking of the man with the "prison pallor," with the sunken eyes and the futile impotent rage against life, who had stood beside the shrewish little woman and screamed at me a short while ago.

I told my city editor the story of the two men I had interviewed, and he listened with his head tilted appreciatively until I was

through.

"Yeah, I get you," he smiled. "Which one really was the lifer? But I guess you'd better write about Sam Janney-and just stick to the facts."

THEVILLA AGOSTINO

(Continued from page 50)

It was this austere quality in the Señor Brown which had led to his misfortune. He had had misunderstandings with Latin-American officials in his day, but not over women. No scandal had stained his record. It would scarcely suffice to say that Señor Brown had never loved, but he had forgotten them. When he saw Jovita Barreira, the postmistress of Cabanes, he became the duelingground of passion and fidelity. Don Sebastian made his major-domo the messenger of his own love. Señor Brown was not long in perceiving the scheme of which the infatuated millionaire was to be a victim. She was a goddess even to Señor Brown, but when he poured out his declaration in booming clangorous Spanish, she shook her head and called to the back of the office. And Emilio Gonzales, her lover, rose up behind her and looked steadily down upon the diminutive major-domo. It was at this point that the latter made his mistake. He permitted them to discover that he was aware of their plan. It was a mistake because the girl at once complained to Don Sebastian that she feared Señor Brown. The Señor had threatened her. And Don Sebastian in a rage of jealousy storming

over the old walls of his sagacity, dismissed his incorruptible employee.

"Your salary shall be paid, on condition that you do not return," he was told.

"There will be nothing to return to," he

had retorted sourly. "I issue this last warnhad retorted sourty. It issue this ust warning. I have my pride. Nothing shall induce me to put my pension in jeopardy. For it is a pension for faithful service you

are giving me. You try to deceive yourself,

but you cannot deceive me. I am, I am free to say, indispensable to you."

HE went, and Jovita Barreira, whom he had called a goddess, and who had thrown a charm over Don Sebastian which seemed destined to place her one of these days in possession of the seventy million bolivars, was pursuing the even tenor of her way, when Harry Trancher and his friend Jack Ferrell, gentlemen adventurers, moved forward upon the Villa Agostino.

Emilio Gonzales, when he looked up from his seat, which was a well-filled mail-sack in a dark corner of the Cabanes post office, wondered very much indeed what those two big men, regular bad hombres in his opinion, were doing in Cabanes. He saw them side

by side at the window, which was barred like a cage, and the electric light overhead, kept burning by special permission of the Government, shone on their faces. Emilio thought of a visit he had once paid to the Zoölogical Gardens in North America. Then he remembered a more unfortunate experience, when he went to see a friend who had been locked up in connection with a murder he had witnessed. Emilio, invisible in his corner, studied Harry Trancher and Jack Ferrell and told himself that certainly there stood two bad hombres. He heard them demand a money-order for fifty pesos. He saw Jovita, his Jovita, who was as pure a Spaniard as anyone in Cuba, yet who fooled everybody with her short auburn hair and shrewd light gray-green eyes, make out the necessary forms.

Jovita worked as post-office clerk under protest. She had often told Emilio with some sternness that he, a traveling jewel-salesman, had absolutely no idea of the vastness of her ambition. To sing in opera was with Jovita a profound, almost a fun-damental obsession of the soul. It never occurred to her that four out of five girls in America, North, South, Central and in-



How many "well-fed" people are slowly starving?

NOT FOR lack of suffi-cient food, but through failure to eat enough of those foods which Nature intends them to eat!

Vegetables, for example. Only too often people fail to

eat enough of them. In vegetables are stored the mineral salts so essential to proper growth and renewal of the bodily tissues, bones, teeth, muscles.

DO YOU realize that well-made soup containing vegetables is one of the richest scources of these all-important nutrient elements? As vegetables are usually cooked and served, they have lost much of their most valuable food content. This is due to the fact that the water in which they are boiled is almost always thrown away. Yet while the vegetables are being cooked, that water absorbs a large portion of their mineral salts. In soup, however, these mineral salts remain to enrich and invigorate.

What a bountiful supply of rich vegetable goodness there is in every

Without knowing it, many neglect Nature's simple ways to abundant golden health and rosy beauty!

plateful of Campbell's Vegetable Soup.

Baby lima beans-dainty and enticing. Sweet little peas-the pride of the garden. Country Gentleman corn from the finest fields. Tomatoes-red-ripe and luscious with all their appetizing flavor. White and sweet potatoes—the best that grow. Snow-white celery. Chantenay carrotsthe pick of the world. Selected turnips and cabbage. Okra, sweet red peppers, parsley fresh every day from our own farms, a touch of onion and leek to make the flavor even more tempting. In all there are fifteen different vegetablesand don't forget that you receive the full benefit of the mineral salts stored in them by nature to give you health and

And in addition to all these, Campbell's

Vegetable Soup contains invigorating broth of choice beef, pearl barley, alphabet macaroni, herbs and seasoning-blended by our famous French chefs into as delicious a soup as you can place on your table. Thirty-two ingredients, all

told!

HERE is an ideal luncheon or supper dish. It has the real nourishment you need at the midday or evening meal. It tastes so good and is so invigorating

that you always welcome it, even when you do not feel like eating a heavy meal. At dinnertime it makes a real part of the longer meal. And let the children eat Campbell's Vegetable Soup often-it's so wholesome. 12 cents a can, at your grocer's.



WITH THE MEAL OR AS A MEAL SOUP BELONGS IN THE DAILY

cluding the West Indian archipelago, had the same trouble of the spirit, the same passionate feeling of frustration when they con-

templated their daily tasks.

She made out the forms efficiently, sullenly, and without looking at the two big who were watching her. She did not see Mr. Trancher, who was sending the fifty pesos to his mother in Bootle, nudge Mr. Ferrell and indicate with a flicker of an eyelash the healthy roll of gold-backed currency within reach of Jovita's left hand. Emilio Gonzales saw it, however, and his impression of the two as poor company for his Jovita deepened. He also moved slight-ly on his mail-bag cushion as though to render access to the broad belt, which sup-ported a very handsome pair of long pearl-handled revolvers, a little more easy.

YES, Jovita was not going to do this all her life. With a voice like hers— Emilio, even while he watched his sweetheart at the post-office window, pondered the problem. She had a voice. If you had never heard She kad a voice. If you had never heard it, you were startled out of your customary cool and patronizing attitude toward post-office lady clerks. She was by way of being a tall, elegant girl, physically, though slender; and most men, when they gave the matter any thought at all, wanted to protect Jovi-ta from the rough world. Even Emilio ta from the rough world. Even Emilio Gonzales, who was in love with Jovita, had wished to treat her like one of his own jewels, shaping and polishing her hard, bril-liant character, and setting it firmly within the sterling metal of his own personality. He lived in Santiago, that beautiful dirty town which lies at the head of a wonderful winding harbor south across the cane-lands from Cabanes, and he was planning to open a store there instead of riding all over Cuba on horseback and selling from door to door. This last was a profitable business, but it was fatiguing and, in truth, dangerous.

But she had a voice. It was so powerful, even as she spoke, that people would re-gard her with incredulity when they heard the resonant sound, like the echo of a golden gong, coming from that somber, rather stand-offish young person. When she sang, which was rarely indeed since came to Cabanes, the volume of sound filled the chamber as though the windows were suddenly opened upon a square thronged

with a cymbal-clashing army.

But since those two men had come in, Jovita had not uttered a sound. Harry Trancher had asked her for a foreign had asked her money-order, and she had handed him the form to fill up. He was evidently familiar with such documents. The other man's eyes wandered and then settled upon her with a look that she was aware of without looking at him. She knew he could not see Emilo Gonzales at the back of the office be-

cause of the bright light.

When Jack Ferrell looked at a girl as he was looking at Jovita, it gave him a re-fined expression. Jack roamed the world dreamily, with half of his brain clouded; yet he sought something, he knew not what, which might bring back to him the secret he had known in youth. It was this which Harry Trancher sensed in their relations, an obscure feeling that these lawless expeditions of his were to Jack something else. They were. To Jack there was a little of the pilgrimage in their journeys. He had a on his long, sad face at times, that look at the next corner, over the next hill, behind the next island, his faded blue eyes would see what he sought, the secret which no racking of his tired brain could solve.

So he looked at women as though to say: "Is it you? Have you got it? Can I have you?" So he looked at Jovita Barreira, you?" So he looked at Jovita Barreira, and a moment later almost imperceptibly, and while Harry was glancing at him warningly, he shook his head. The expression passed like a shadow, like a sigh.

Harry Trancher smiled as he handed over the fifty dollars which was to go to Bootle, England.

"A stamp, please, señorita, for Inglaterra." Jovita looking up sullenly, saw a worn and bulging wallet in Mr. Trancher's hands. Her quick eye caught sight of a brilliant orange-colored five-centavo stamp of Spanish Honduras as Mr. Trancher drew out a fresh clean envelope addressed to Mrs. Trancher. When she received it, she would say to her neighbors: "My son's doing awfully well in America." There had been a letter from New Orleans with five hundred dollars and a photograph of Harry made in a Canal Street studio.

"Money for my old mother in England, señorita," he said, glancing at her deferentially. He thought of Señor Brown and what Señora Voight had told him of the woman at the post office. He saw that she was that sort of a tart. Had a headpiece. he was startled when she said, in a

deep strong voice:

"You come from Honduras?"
"Señorita?"

She frowned and almost turned to speak Emilio Gonzales. She was recalling an official report of a few weeks back when the railway express-office at Puerto Sanchez, which lies eastward of Ceiba on the lonely coast of Honduras, was the scene of a fight between the crew of an American freighter and a dozen of the local soldiery, mostly drunk, and the mail-car strong-box was found open and empty. The news in the course of time reached even Cabanes in eastern Cuba. Jovita examined those two big men sharply.

'Señorita?' "I know you!" she said, leaning forward with her hands on the desk, secure in the presence of Emilio Gonzales behind her. "This is not Puerto Sanchez, señores."

At the mention of that place Jack Ferrell took his gaze from a map of the Caribbean Sea and looked at his friend. Harry Tran-cher's chin was against his chest, and he glanced sharply from under his frowning eyebrows.

'That so? My name isn't Señor Brown, either," he muttered as he stowed his wallet away. "Come on, Jack. Let's take a little away. walk."

"That's a nice skirt," said Jack as they set out along Front Street. "I'm goin' to see if she'll come out some evening.

"No, you're not, Jack. Don't you re-member? That's the girl I told you about. She's the one who's fixing to be a widow We're going to stop it, see. Get some oof for it. too.

"Bash her on her head, shall we?"

"You wait and don't go bashing till I say so," warned Mr. Trancher. "My gracious, it's hot here! Let's have a schooner of cerveza."

"Did you hear her voice?" asked Jack. He looked as though he had caught a glimpse, an astonishing glimpse, of another world, before the door had been slammed in his face.

"Did I hear it?" snarled Harry, pushing into a saloon with a zinc bar gleaming in the green-and-gold dusk of closed shutters. 'It was like a dock-master's!

JOVITA BARREIRA whirled round upon Emilio Gonzales, still sitting on his mailbag in the dark office.

You saw those men?" she whispered hoarsely.

"I did not understand. What is this Puer-

to Sanchez you shouted at him?"
"I shout? I didn't know I shouted. I saw it in the notificaciones," she said, reaching for a large clip-file above her head. She turned the dusty sheets and then handed it him with a quick movement toward a light on the wall. He read. "The commandante was the instigator and

is now in prison," he said, returning the file and switching off the light.

Jovita shrugged her fine shoulders in reply

Emilio's glance of inquiry.
"He had a Honduras stamp in with his money," she said. "And you heard what he said? He spoke of Señor Brown. When did he hear of that shrimp Señor Brown?

Emilio, I don't like those two coming here."
"Two bad hombres, I said to myself
when they came in," said Emilio. "What

is to be done?" 'Have a care."

Seen in a good light, Emilio Gonzales was a handsome young man. He had a full dark eye, not overly straight lips and a neat little mustache. He wore a light gray sombrero. A large diamond on his little finger and a fine pearl pin in his scarf gave him a romantic, distinguished air. He moved with an extraordinary quietness and caution. Every fourth week he came to Cabanes on his round of visits from Santiago, where he planned to have a store of his own. And in a silent, enigmatic fashion he was the lover of Jovita Barreira, when Don Sebas-tian Canafístolo came to the Villa Agostino and one day set his large black eyes upon the girl at the post office.

It was like Jovita to keep Emilio out of the way. It was like him to remain in the background. If Don Sebastian could be brought to give her a musical education, por Diós, would not that be a fine thing? There was nothing more in it than that before the astute Señor Brown received the report of Lo Foo, who worked in the kitchen of the Villa Agostino under old Clotilda. Lo Foo had been born in Cabanes, and he had a face in color and shape like a pan-cake. He lay flat on the outer ledge of the sea-wall by the oil jetty and heard Jovita

say to Emilio:
"I could marry that old man, and in a few years—oh, Emilio!"

"If you marry him, I will put a bullet into his head," Emilio had said softly. "And they would execute you!"

Lo Foo saw the man's hand close on Jo-vita's throat, and she uttered a gurgling

"And I would drive a knife into you just for that, my Jovita."

She lay quiet under his hand for a moment, and he released her. Lo Foo was disappointed. He had expected to see the knife sink into that tall, white girl's neck. "Emilio, you are a fool."

"That may be. I know thee, Jovita."
"I joked. I mean about the execution." "And you still think you can marry him as he desires?"

"And if by sad chance he was shot, as you say he might be-oh, Emilio!"

There was a pause in the darkness. Lo Foo saw them embrace. These caballeros! "You are a clever girl, my Jovita," said milio. "I am afraid of thee, sometimes."

JOW, when the doorway was no longer darkened by those two bad hombres, they looked at each other in doubt. denly the girl snapped her thumb and finger and uttered a long booming exclamation.

Emilio, we must act at once! the Villa tonight to dinner with Don Sebastian-yes, I know, but he must never become informed of your existence. I have made that my attitude from the beginning —a poor girl whose sole desire is to sing. So I go there as usual. He sends his car. But Señor Brown knew of you by some of his spies and told Don Sebastian. He re-fused to believe it. He dismissed the poor shrimp. Now, these—" She rested her chin on her clenched fist for a moment.

"You mean you are going to abandon me," said Emilio quietly. "The first thing he will demand of you is to leave this place."
"Wait, let me think," she muttered, resting one hand on his shoulder. "These two

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City							

have come from Señor Brown." She kept her steady eye on Emilio Gonzales. "To avenge him! They are two desperate men.

avenge him! They are two desperate men. That other one—he had a lunatic expression on his face. Kill and rob."
"You will be in danger, Jovita."
"Let me think! You must come up to the Villa tonight. I am going to tell Don Sebastian two men have been here and threatened my life. I dare not return. He must let me stay. You understand?"
"Yes I understand. Iovita. And you un-

"Yes, I understand, Jovita. And you un-

derstand too, I suppose, that if I come up there, I shall kill him."
"Tckah! I said you were a fool. There will be no need— I stay with old Clotilda. Tomorrow—oh, Emilio!"

THEY stepped out of the club, those two men, into the moonlight, and seemed at once to become legendary figures of the once to become legendary ngures night. The white concrete walk, raised a foot above the earth, was crossed by the shadows of palm and cactus so solid they seemed like ebony inlay on ivory. They moved athwart this magical marquetry and seemed to take on the semblance of torment-ed marionettes, their gestures exaggerated into the dreadful shapes of their alarming and derisive shadows. Something of this necromancy touched their minds as they went on toward San Agostino. Out on the solid curving whiteness of the causeway round the shore, their footsteps shocked them. The sound, compared with the whisper of the waves on the sand, seemed pro-

"Harry," said Jack plaintively, "why didn't you let me bash that dago when he insulted you?"

"Because he'd got two damn' long guns on his hips, Jack, and he was looking for a chance to do us in. What's an insult, Jack? You'll have a chance to bash him by and by. We've got to call on Don Canafistolo first.

"That's a jaw-breaking name, Harry."
"Well, you've got to remember it. He's the old boy we're going to do a good turn

They approached San Agostino. urb lay before them like a huge dark crouching figure with one red, unwinking eye, which was the signal on the oil-jetty they drew near, the subdued lights of lamps shining behind the screens of verandas re-assured them. The perfume of flowers hung heavy in the air. The fireflies sparkled like facets of an enormous and invisible jewel. Slow-moving beetles, crossing the paths, appeared to be carrying on their fore-heads intolerable burdens of light, setting out upon voyages of fabulous discovery.
"There," said Harry Trancher, "that's it.

"GREEN FACES"

Under this title Elsa Barker has written another chapter in the life of her detective, Drake, that amazing chap to whom a day is drab indeed that does not produce a problem that no one but himself could promptly solve. The new story will be published in an early issue.

I was over there last night. See it-Villa Agostino!"

Old Clotilda, bending over a charcoal brazier in the enormous vaulted kitchen, saw Lo Foo pause in his sweeping. She was preparing after-dinner coffee.

"Some one goes along the path to the garden," he murmured. "Strangers."
"I did not hear them," she mumbled.

Lo Foo did not reply. The caballeros and their ladies were strange to him. Sounds and sights escentially as the stranger of the s and sights escaped them constantly which were familiar to him. He had heard two men and said so. He went on sweeping. his flat lids hung low over his eyes. No-body had ever seen Lo Foo's eyes. Even his ears were covered by his long straight black hair. When old Clotilda went along the corridor with the coffee for Don Sebastian and that big white Señorita, the men who had gone past might drive a knife into the old woman's neck. He had seen men do this in fights. When they fell they grunted, and he wondered whether Clotilda

would grunt. He went on sweeping.

To Lo Foo, things were going very strangely. There was the Señorita's lover hidden away in that summerhouse over-looking the water at the end of the garden. He had come up while dinner was in prog-ress and tiptoed along, looking in at the window where the old Don was sitting at one end of the long table and the beautiful Señorita at the other. And then he had crept past and across the garden, Lo Foo watching through the slits of his eyelids, and wanished into the belvidere. And now two more men—big, heavy men, by the sound of their feet. Strangers. Lo Foo paused in his sweeping and closed his eyes for a moment as a slight vertigo seized him. He had imagined them catching him when he was unawares. Lo Foo's imagination was very powerful. He was obsessed by a dream he had once had of a man killed and hidden in a load of cane. The cane was lifted out in slings of shining chain and began to pass up the ramp into the crushers. Lo Foo saw himself in there, helpless, moving on toward the vast cruel rumble of the steel rollers. He had seen the juice cascading down below them, reddish-brown liquor flowing away to the vats. And he would close his eyes-

So he closed them now, but only for a moment. He perceived in a flash that the two men had come to kill the caballero who sold cheap jewelry in Cabanes and who had fled to the summerhouse in the garden. For some reason, obscure to himself the world, Lo Foo cherished a liking for Emilio Gonzales. He had pondered upon the manners of white men as he watched the lovers. Their lips would be pressed together, and there would be a sound like the waves on the sand—tss-tss! That other ca-then had given Lo Foo an extra two dol-lars. Thinking of all this, Lo Foo stepped softly out into the witchery of the Cuban night.

Over the trees of San Agostino the sky reflected the glare of Cabanes. Across the lagoon, in long horizontal streaks, like the marks of charcoal on blue vellum, lay the smoke from the mill-stacks burning canetrash.

Lo Foo regarded the scene with satisfaction. He had never been farther than Maravilla, across the outer bay, and his education was more or less rudimentary, but he experienced a mysterious happiness in such scenes of exquisite loveliness. If it were not for the caballeros and their peculiar habits, the world to Lo Foo would have been a celestial place. He stepped silently, like a shadow, toward the summerhouse in the garden.

EMILIO GONZALES was in a state of L some perturbation as he sat on a seat where he and Jovita had often spent the evening when the villa was empty, and meditated upon the events of the day. was a young man accustomed to looking after himself. The cane-country is full of tough characters who would look upon a traveling jewelry-salesman as an easy proposition. A Haitian negro had once been found shot dead beside a grazing mule on the road leading out of Maravilla, and it is possible Emilio Gonzales, had he been interrogated, might have explained the matter. But this was something rather out of his way. He was fully aware of the uproar following a rich man's sudden death. Cuba would be ringing with it. The more he reflected, the less he liked the attitude of Jovita. He wasn't at all certain he himself was capable of what she expected. It flooded his mind with darkness to remember that was even now in the Villa Agostino telling her story. And then those two bad hombres coming had simplified the problem in a way. He had left them drinking beer in the club, but he knew they were on

He looked up at a faint sound and saw the indigo square of the open window-frame contained a head and shoulders. He drew

one of his long pearl-handled pistols.

"Señor," came a hoarse whisper, "let me come in and tell you something. It is only Lo Foo."

"What do you want?" asked Emilio.

"Who told you I was here tonight?
"I hear you. I see you, señor.

there are two men come into the house just now. What do they want? Is it the Senorita they want?

ita they want?"

"You see them?" he demanded.

"And hear too," replied Lo Foo. He was squatting in the darkness of the room below the window. "Clotilda has taken in the coffee. The Señorita is singing for His Excellency. It is a song of great sorrow."

"Is it?" muttered Emilio. "Go on, chico.

I am coming into the villa. Show me those

two men."

He went down the steps to the garden and paused in astonishment. He heard Jovita singing. Her melodious voice filled the blue darkness with ecstasy.

"Señor," whispered the poor chico, "it sounds like the blessed angels in heaven." The piano accompaniment ceased, and Emilio became aware of a struggle going on

in the darkness. Some one was sobbing, and there was a sound of desperately heavy breathing.

Suddenly a man tore frenziedly down the suddenly a man tore trenziedly down the path toward the pergola. Emilio Gonzales heard an exasperated voice calling: "Bash! I'll bash you, you—" The sobbing eased, and died down. "Shoot, señor," whispered Lo Foo. "H: is there by the Villa. Shoot!"

Emilio Gonzales fired twice. There was

scuttering among the shrubs, and lights began to go up in the rooms of the Villa Agostino.

"Go in and tell the Señorita I am out-side," said Emilio in a low tone. "Tell her I have driven the murderers away. her, too, that there is no danger to be feared

But it was Don Sebastian Canafistolo, with a heavy automatic in his hand, who took the message from Lo Foo and peered out into the garden.

"Excellency," said Lo Foo, "the Señor out there fought those men single-handed and they have fled. They were about to murder Clotilda and climb into the Villa. He has

"Who is this person?" demanded Don Sebastian. "Bring him in. And who are you?"

The Beautiful Duchesse de Gramont

on keeping a lovely skin

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leader of Parisian society, is the widow of the late Antoine Alfred Agenor, Eleventh Duc de Gramont, of an important French family. Before her marriage the Duchesse was Maria Ruspoli, of the family of the Princes Ruspoli.

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ing to the surface all dust and powder. If the skin is dry, more Cream applied after the nightly cleansing, and left on until morning, will restore suppleness.

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he asked of Emilio, and stroked his im-

perial.

"Your Excellency," said Emilio Gonzales, slipping his long pearl-handled gun into his belt, "I am a man who has done you a service. Señor Brown, who hated me be-cause the Señorita did me the honor of service. loving me, may have mentioned Emilio Gonzales, the jeweler from Santiago. I am that man. Señor Brown, in my opinion, sent those men to kill and rob.

"You mean," said Don Sebastian, lighting cigarette, "Señor Brown sent them on a wild-goose chase, having done the robbing himself? All the same, I am under an obli-

gation to you, Señor Gonzales."

might be put that way, Excellency, replied Emilio with a quiet glance at Jovita. "To the Señorita, also. It was her idea."

AND when the two gentlemen-adventurers, back once more in New Orleans, hurried from the foot of Calliope Street to Chartres, and put up at Madame Despard's, they found Señor Brown and the Señora Voight no longer there. Madame Despard told them the tale. She gave them the best room, Señora Voight's room in the old days, and listened to their adventures.

"He's had a nervous breakdown, madame," r. Trancher said. "He'll have to rest awhile. Fell down and hit himself on the head. I had a job getting him to a hospital. You know, madame, he's never been the same, since the war. So they got married, he added, referring to Señor did they?' Brown and the Señora.

"Living at the Hotel Bolivar in New York," said Madame. "Do you know, Mr. Trancher, Mr. Brown's very rich?" Why, do you mean to say-"Rich?

began Harry Trancher. She nodded.

began Harry Trancher. She nodded.

"He had a trunk full of securities, Señora
Voight told me. He married her to have
somebody take care of it, if you ask me."

"Well, I'm — " He glanced at Jack
Ferrell, drowsing in a hammock. "The dirty,
underhand little shrimp! Said he'd rather starve. No wonder they were ready for us! I say," he went on, "I wish I had a reason like that for getting married.

"Why, Mr. Trancher, I'm surprised," said Madame Despard. "The Señora told me you were a wonderful man. And I think

so too, the way you look after poor Mr. Ferrell."

"Now-now!" said Harry Trancher. "Be yourself, madame. But it only shows you what I might do, if I had a real object in life. Somehow, I've never felt that way before."

But the next evening, when he went to find Jack and tell him what he was going to do, and how there would always home for him now, Jack was gone. And they never saw him again. He was on his way, was Jack, outward bound to the isles the Chiriqui Lagoon, to Bluefields and the Spanish Main. Asprawl on some coconut schooner you might find him, or stoking a stern-wheel freighter up the Magdalena with armfuls of wood as she thumped her way past Barranca Vermeja and Remolino. He was on his way, seeking another glimpse of the world he had lost and the heaven he might some day win. And sometimes they found him sobbing softly in the darkness, when he remembered with aching brain the voice of the Señorita as it sounded across the odorous darkness outside the Villa Agostino.

CHILDREN OF DIVORCE

(Continued from page 66)

ew, who ran on:
"I am miserable, utterly miserable! What will happen? She will force me to keep my promise, and then—what will become of her? What will she do? It will kill her. When I contemplate—" He choked and stopped, seized by a sudden shudder.
"Idiot—she will wait for you—why, of

course!"

"What do you mean by that?"
The Prince Ludovic sat up suddenly, an ominous frown gathering over his angry

eyes.
"Ta, ta, ta!" The Duke de Gondreville rapped impatiently on his little enameled snuffbox. "Come, come, if I am to be of help to you,—and all I am trying to do is to show you that the situation is not so desperate, at least stop talking like a child. Kindly do me the favor of discussing this like a man of the world. And first of all, understand that I am not here to quarrel with you.

His nephew passed his hand over his eyes. "Pardon, mon oncle. I-I am in no con-

dition tonight-

"Will you listen to me?"
"I am listening."

"In the first place, what is this marriage that is proposed to you? Is anyone talking of love? Not the slightest. It is simply an exchange of interests. A young lady, who happens to be well-bred, charming, irreproachable,—you can forgive her that for

be done. Isn't that enough! Bon Dieu, isn't that enough?"

"My poor boy!"

the sake of your children,—is looking for a title, a distinguished title, which will give her the position in society to which her fortune entitles her. You do not think for a moment that Miss Waddington, who is not at all ignorant of life, is under any illustrated to the sake of your children,—is looking for a title, a distinguished title, which will give her the position in society to which her fortune entitles her. You do not think for a moment that Miss Waddington, who is not at all ignorant of life, is under any illustrate description. do you?" "Well?"

"She must know what such marriages mean. She can be under no illusions, my dear boy, either as to the past or the fu-

"What are you coming to?"

"This: Marry, but renounce nothing. Oh," he added quickly at a sudden move-ment from his listener, "I am not counseling you to do anything immoral. No! No, no! You have standards, you have traditions. For a year or two-for a respectable interval, while it is a question the children—absolute fidelity! Any other course would be unworthy of you, and I should be the first to reprove you. It is not a question of morals; it is a question of good form. After that—" He stopped, smiled and shrugged his shoulders.

His listener burst out into an ugly laugh. "Ah, now I understand! Only you for-Ah, now I understand! Only you for-, I have some pride in the name I bear, and I do not intend to have a wife à la mode—who will make it ridiculous, who will have a dozen lovers, whose children will not be my children. No, no and no!

"Seriously, Ludovic, you have seen Miss Waddington twice; you have talked to her, studied her. Do you honestly believe she is that type of woman? Answer me."

Ludovic frowned and moved uneasily. 'Who knows?"

"No, and you know it. Why is your mother so keen? Because she recognizes a woman of her own character! Whatever you may do, Miss Waddington will be guided by her own self-respect. My boy-you have there one in a thousand, in a thousand! And if you reject this chance, what will you fall on later? Aha! Think of

"In brief, you advise me to marry Miss Waddington, and in a short time—a respectable interval, your expression was—go back to the woman I love."

"Why, of course."

The young man took a long breath.
"I'll be equally frank. I will not pretend

to any superior virtue. What you say is repugnant to me now. It offends me in every fiber. But it is possible you are right. It is possible that eventually I could

come to your point of view. Oh, well, let's admit it. Yes, undoubtedly—I would. But there is one thing you forget!" "Madame Laleu?" said the Duke, smiling.

"Exactly. Madame Laleu is a devout atholic. Already she has sinned against her traditions for her love of me. She does not say it, but I know that to her she is living a mortal sin, and that her whole life will be an expiation!"

THE old Duke opened wide his eyes. "What an absurdity!"

"Never, when I am married in the eyes of the church to another woman, will she consent to see me again. That will be the end! I? Yes. She? Never!"
"My dear Vico," said the Duke, allowing his annoyance to show for the first time,

"you are twenty-eight and blindly in love; I am a little older and have loved many times. Permit me to tell you, and I don't intend to be contradicted—that you are wrong, totally, absurdly wrong. Madame Laleu loved you once enough to sacrifice her prejudices. She will sacrifice them again when it is a question of your happiness and not hers. A woman who really loves will always sacrifice herself when the time comes. What she says now has nothing whatsoever to do with what she will do when it is a question of acts, nothing whatsoever. The Prince, unconvinced answered ob-

"I am not the child you think me. am quite aware what my marriage will mean, and I am quite aware of what blood is in me. One loves once; one has many passions! I may have twenty mistresses, but this—this time is the best in life, my youth, my ideals! When it is over—" He sprang up, opening his arms and dropping them in a passionate, empty gesture. "I know my duty. I will meet it. But two

years—these two years I will have!"
"You will not believe me."
"When it ends—it ends forever!"

He stood at the fireplace, his arm on the mantel, his body shaken with emotion. The old Duke laid his hand on his shoulder.

"Ah, my poor Vico, if only the bon Dieu would lift the veil a little and let us see ourselves as we will be at forty—what blunders we could avoid! Trust your old uncle who loves you, trust his experience! Everything will work out in the cod." Everything will work out in the end.

Prince Ludovic covered the friendly hand with his own, pressed it affectionately, but without yielding a jot of his determination.

BEN AMES WILLIAMS

Has written a powerful story for an early issue, that bears the odd title "Tup." That happens to be the name by which the man in the tale is known, and so powerfully does he dominate the story that no other title seems quite so good for it.



Three generations say: "Nothing can take the place of Fels-Naptha!"

Mother: (Pointing to Fels-Naptha advertisement in her favorite magazine). "Everything they say here about the extra help of Fels-Naptha is absolutely true. I've tried other soaps at different times—both old and new soaps—but none of them gave me as much real washing help as Fels-Naptha.

"Mrs. Dean-our new neighbor across the streetasked me recently how I got my clothes so white and fresh looking. She simply wouldn't believe there could be so much difference in soaps until I persuaded her to try Fels-Naptha. Now she uses Fels-Naptha for everything—all her washing and cleaning."

Grandmother: "My goodness, dear, you can't tell me anything new about Fels-Naptha! I remember when it first come outthirty or more years ago. It proved quite a sensation.

You see, they had found a way to combine good soap with naptha so that these two fine cleaners could work together. I used Fels-Naptha at first just for washing extra soiled pieces. I could hardly believe any soap could get out the dirt so easily and quickly without being hard on the

"When I found how really safe and helpful Fels-Naptha was, I began using it for all my cleaning, and I've used it ever since.

Granddaughter: "You and mother are certainly Fels-Naptha boosters. It is wonderful, though, isn't it? I don't know what I would do without it, especially for the children's clothes. find it so much easier with Fels-Naptha to get them clean and sweet.

Millions of women say that for real downright washing value, making it easier to get clothes thoroughly and safely cleanfor extra help that lightens the everyday cleaning jobs about the house-nothing can take the place of Fels-Naptha.

Fels-Naptha is more than just naptha soap. It is a naptha-two fine cleaners that work together and help each other. No wonder Fels-Naptha gives you extra help you would hardly expect from any other soap!

Buy a bar or two next time you are at the store. Or write Fels & Co., Philadelphia, for free sample.

O Fels & Co.



blending of good soap with FELS-NAPTHA plenty of dirt-loosening The COLUMN AM WITH THE CLEAN NAPPHA GOOD



How this Lather's Moisture softens the BEARD

MILLIONS of users wonder just how Williams Shaving Cream softens the beard so well—makes shaving so comfortable. Here's how:

First, Williams lifts the waterproof oilfilm from the beard.

Next, its tremendous moisture saturates the beard bristles-softening them for smooth, easy shaving. It lubricates the skin—the razor just glides.

Send the coupon, or a postcard—for a week's trial tube of Williams—FREE. The large size tube sells for 35c; the double size tube costs 50c and holds twice as much.

AQUA VELVA is our newest triumph—a scientific after-shaving preparation. We will send a generous test bottle FREE. Write Dept. 102.

Shaving Cream



The J. B. Conn. (Ca Montreal)	Willian nadian	ns Co., address	Dept. 1114	102 Glast St. Patrick	onbury, Street,
THE					

Please send me free trial tube of Williams Shaving

R. B. -2-27

"You may know much about women-I know profoundly the one woman I adore.

Mon oncle, I am afraid—"

"Child again!"

"No, no. Afraid, horribly afraid!"
"You will consider what I have said?"

He shook his head.

"You are determined to go against the wishes of your mother?

Now? Yes, I am determined." The Duke de Gondreville drew himself

up, stern and peremptory.

You speak of sacrifices. Have you considered the sacrifices that have been made for you? Do you know that your Aunt Angelique has renounced her life, her income, to hold together the home that be-longs to you? Do you realize that she s to you? Do you realize that she your mother for ten years have economized, as little seamstresses economize, for you! That they scrimp in the very food they eat, that they buy nothing for their backs, that they use paper tapers to save a box of matches, that they have pledged their jewels, their private fortunes, pledged their heirlooms and the portraits of their ancestors, to pay the interest on our debts! There is only one thing can save the situation—you know what it is. And if an accident should happen to you? We should be sold out tomorrow, bag and baggage. Ah, you didn't think of that. Well, inform yourself tomorrow! Ludovic, listen: you will do your duty, because you are a good son, because you are a good soldier. No matter what the cost to you-you will do it. Don't answer me. Don't force me to speak any plainer. It is a question now of only one thing—your duty; and you will do it!"

"Have you anything more to say to me, mon oncle?"

"I have finished."

"You will permit me to retire?"

"Va!"

He bowed and went out gloomily. The Duke de Gondreville, frowning, not alto-gether satisfied, having concluded this highly moral exposition, departed hastily to face the reproaches of a certain young lady of the Variétés, who he knew would be in a devil of a temper for having been kept waiting over an hour.

Chapter Thirty-one

THERE are long periods in life when everything moves in lazy repetition, when each week resembles the next, when nothing happens, when it seems that nothing ever will happen, that existence has no change in sight, that no complications can come to disturb the satisfying routine which has been established. Then suddenly everything is accelerated; events crowd in; swift decisions are to be made, when hardly the time is given to make them, when everything is hurried, dramatic, intense.

So with Jean. The months of solitary struggle through which she had passed into a gradual readjustment had brought her to regard life as a measured evolution. In her imagination she could look ahead and perceive in the distance decisions to which she might logically and inevitably arrive. It was only her emotional nature which was susceptible to sudden and violent impulses. For the rest, her acts were always the result of long and hesitant deliberation. She had indeed arrived at the point where she had more than once contemplated the possibility of a marriage which, devoid of sen-timent, would open up to her a life of varied interests and brilliant contacts. Day by day she returned to this idea, sometimes incredulously, sometimes in slow visualiza-tion, finding it necessary to accustom herself to the idea before seriously facing the decision which might confront her in a year, perhaps two years.

A month after her first dinner with the Princess de Sfax, Miss Fingall said to her

out of a blue sky:

"Jean, if the Prince de Sfax should propose for your hand—" She stopped, smiled. "You are not ignorant of the situation. Can we discuss it frankly?"

"Oh, it isn't as serious as all that, is it?" responded Jean lightly, searching in the wrinkled face some indication of the true import of the situation, wondering if she had been sent as an emissary. Miss Fingall looked at her shrewdly, with a little amusement in her keen eves.

"I give you credit, my dear, for having as much perception as any woman under the circumstances. So don't put on that as much percepts. So don't put on the circumstances. So don't put on the circumstances. Well, have you made up

"Who is proposing, the Prince or his mother?" said Jean, laughing.
"Now, what do you mean by that?"

"I mean I have seen the Prince de Sfax twenty times or more. He has been charming, interesting, friendly. But he doesn't give the impression of having come to any serious decision himself-oh, not at all.

A frown passed over the old lady's face. She considered a moment before replying: "From his point of view, he is behaving

of view. Often a Frenchman does not meet his intended until the marriage is decided Amusing, ridiculous, but it is so.

"Really?

"All this is done to protect the young girl. So, my dear, I think what may seem to you indifference on the part of Prince Ludovic is simply an excess of sensibility; but the motive is one of respect toward you.

Jean shook her head.
"Frankly, I think it is more than that."

"You are mistaken." "I don't think so.

"If I should tell you that within the next few days the Princess de Sfax will call on your cousin and seriously discuss the possibilities of such an alliance?" "Is this true?"

Miss Fingall nodded. Jean looked up, a little disconcerted.

"Oh, but I-

"No one is going to hurry your decision, my dear," said Miss Fingall quickly. "There my dear, sun and things to be considered. We all realize that. But this cannot be such a surprise to you. Surely you understood." surprise to you. Surely you "Yes, of course, but still-

"But haven't you during all this time oc-casionally asked yourself the question, seri-ously considered the possibilities? Come!"

"Yes, I have."

Her surprise over, she looked at her friend thoughtfully and attentively.

"You wish to know what my answer would be? Very well. I should not say yes, and I should not say no."

"But you would consider-

"I have considered, and I shall want a long time to consider it—months. Such a decision would not be easy for me to make, I would never make it impulsively, but I would not be frank if I did not admit to you that it is a possibility."

"Then let us leave it there."

M ISS FINGALL, satisfied that the leaven was working, did not pursue the subject. But at the end of the day, as though it were an afterthought, she remarked:

"Your cousin Bettina seems to me to have been very successful in her marriage; I don't know a more delightful interior in

Jean, who was in a mischievous mood, began to laugh.

"And what better example could I have at the present time?" Miss Fingall, who augured well of this

mood, relaxed into a smile.



Theirs the greatest wealth

MILDRED M. WILLIAMS, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Victims of stubborn present-day ills they gained new health, new ambition by eating one simple food

NOT a "cure-all," not a medicine—Fleischmann's Yeast is simply a remarkable fresh food.

The millions of tiny active yeast plants in every cake invigorate the whole system. They aid digestion—clear the skin—banish the poisons of constipation. Where cathartics give only temporary relief, yeast strengthens the intestinal muscles and makes them healthy and active, daily releasing new stores of energy.

Eat two or three cakes regularly every day, one before each meal: on crackers, in fruit juices, water or milk—or just plain, in small pieces. For constipation dissolve one cake in hot water (not scalding) before meals and at bedtime. Dangerous habit-forming cathartics will gradually become unnecessary. All grocers have Fleischmann's Yeast. Buy several cakes at a time—they will keep fresh in a cool dry place for two or three days.

And let us send you a free copy of our latest booklet on Yeast for Health. Health Research Dept. M-37, The Fleischmann Company, 701 Washington Street, New York. "I WAS MUCH TROUBLED WITH CON-STIPATION after returning from the World War. As a result, headaches and dizziness also besieged me. I learned of the wonderful benefits being obtained from Fleischmann's Yeast and began taking it regularly. Now my digestion is perfect and my constipation has entirely disappeared."

ARTHUR E. PRAY, New York City

THIS FAMOUS FOOD tones up the



"FOR TWO YEARS I WAS NEVER FREE FROM BOILS, pimples and blackheads. They broke out on my face, on my neck and on my back. Finally, a doctor prescribed Fleischmann's Yeast, and I started in to take it at once. My face became clearer, my pimples disappeared and I have never had a boil since."

EUGENE BLACKMER, JR., Denver, Colo.

Old Pipe-Smoker Switches Back to Favorite Tobacco

Evidently, one way to appreciate a certain tobacco is to try another kind.

At least, that has been the experience of one veteran pipe-smoker. By switching temporarily to other tobacco he finally came back to his old-time favorite with a new appreciation and a vow never to change again.

Read this "signed confession":

Peoria, Ill. Aug. 26, 1926

Messrs. Larus & Bro. Co., Richmond, Va.

Dear Sirs:

Dear Sirs:

Just a confession and an appreciation.

A number of years ago I was a user of your Edgeworth smoking tobacco. But like some others, perhaps, I was led by alluring advertisements to change.

A few days ago I went into a drug store to get some tobacco, and on the case was the familiar can of Edgeworth. I bought it and since then I have enjoyed old-time comfort.

So my confession is that I made a mistake in changing to other brands, and my appreciation is such that Edgeworth will be my Smoke Pal while life lasts, which may not be long, for I have passed my "three score years and ten."

Very truly yours,

Very truly yours, (signed) E. P. Fishburn

EDGEWORTH PLUC SLICE

To those who have never tried Edgeworth we make this offer:

Let us send you free samples of Edgeworth so that you may put it to the pipe test. If you like the samples, you'll like Edge-

worth wherever and whenever you buy it, for it never changes in quality.

Write your name and address to Larus & Brother Com-

pany, 8-N S. 21st Street, Richmond, Va.

We'll be grateful for the name and address of your tobacco dealer, too, if you care to add them.

Edgeworth is sold in various sizes to suit the needs and means of all purchas-Both Edgeworth Plug Slice and Edgeworth Ready-Rubbed are packed in small, pocket-size packages, in handsome humidors holding a pound, and also in several handy in-between sizes.

To Retail Tobacco Merchants: If your jobber cannot supply you with Edgeworth, Larus & Brother Company will gladly send you prepaid by parcel post a one- or two-dozen carton of any size of Edgeworth Plug Slice or Edgeworth Ready-Rubbed for the same price you would pay the jobber.

On your radio - tune in on WRVA, Richmond, Va. - the Edgeworth Sta-tion. Wave length 256 meters.

"Eh, eh, you are getting very clever. But you mustn't mind if an old lady who is fond of you has set her heart on your making a success. They have told you stories about me, my dear? Oh, don't pretend; they've told you how I ran away at the age of twenty."

"Was it true?"

"Was it true?"

"Yes, my dear, and look where it left me. Eh, eh, if I told you the story of the twenty years after, it would be a fine moral lesson. There is the romantic age, like the mumps age and the measles age, but it burns out, my dear, as a fever burns out. And life remains. If you could only understand that!"

"I think I are traine to understand."

"I think I am trying to understand-

"The big thing for a woman is her home, my dear! The atmosphere she has the op-portunity to create about her—the thing that is secure. Children, friends, acquaintthat is secure. Children, friends, acquaint-ances are more important than a husband. Cynical? No, no, an old woman who has looked on life a long while is telling you the truth. Look beyond the man, be very sure what you want the man to bring you. Princess de Sfax-not a déclassé title! great salon, my dear, a great stage-

"I think I realize that."

"Yes, Jean, I think you do. I'm sure you do.

Miss Fingall kissed her on both cheeks

and went out with shining eyes. "In a month," she thought, very well

pleased.

JEAN, in fact, was considering the subject with much more seriousness than she had been willing to admit to Miss Fin-During this period many men had paid her attention, a few deeply in love, others simulating a passion to disguise their ambitious projects. Only the Prince de Sfax had never gone beyond the limits of a frank and agreeable friendship. He had been con-stantly in her company. They had ridden stantly in her company. They had ridden often together, gone to the opera and the theater, met often in society. Her first favorable impression had deepened. She saw at once that he was neither an idler, a dissipated man nor an egoist. Within cerdissipated man nor an egoist. tain limitations he was a delightful comrade. Beyond that, she had made no progress. He remained obstinately and persistently an acquaintance-nothing more. This strict formality puzzled her, amused her, removed from her any feeling of defensive caution. In the beginning she had ascribed his attitude to the clever assumption of a rôle. But she soon recognized her error.

"He likes me, but he is not in the least attracted," she acknowledged finally with a laugh. "Not very flattering, but it is so."

Had his attitude been different, she probably would have resented it. What had confused her at first she finally set down to a natural dislike of hypocrisy. She respected him because he made no pretense at an emotion which it was evident he did not feel. If such a marriage took place, it was clearly a matter of reciprocal interests, each maintaining the respect of the other by the loyalty of his attitude. Quite impersonalbut this impersonality more than anything else inclined her to this solution. In a way there would be in it no disloyalty to the man she had loved. Nothing that had belonged to him would be asked of her

This loyalty to her memories affected Jean in a curious way. Several times, as she considered the future, the thought of Dag-gett had recurred to her. After Larrabee's marriage, she had seen Daggett a few times. He had been too clever to seek any intimacy from these meetings, adopting a waiting attitude, correct, devoted, persistent. He wrote her now each week, interesting, irreproachable letters, letters without a word of sentiment, but letters which could not be misconstrued. He had accepted the post of undersecretary in one of the great de-

partments of the national government. A career of service and brilliancy was open to him. A good type of educated young American, ambitious, serious, esteemed. not consider such a marriage, associate her-self with her own traditions, her own kind, The trouble was that her own people? Daggett was too intimately associated with her unhappy memories. To recall him was to recall the things she had striven so desperately to bury, memories that only now she could feel she had at last lived down in a newly acquired peace of mind. Daggett, too, was the past, the past on which she had closed the door and turned the key.

Chapter Thirty-two

HAVE received a visit from the Princess de Sfax." Bettina came into her Bettina came into her a few days later, all excitement. "What, you are not thrilled?"
"I had expected it."
"Really? If you have made up your mind

you might have kept me informed!"
"I have made no decision," Jean answered

"Well, I have been asked how you would receive a formal demand for your hand."

"And you said what?"

"I said naturally that I could not speak for you. After which, we discussed rather intimate details. The French are exceedingly thorough." She considered a moment, studying her friend. "You are really interested, aren't you, Jean?"
"Yes, I think I am. That is very far from a decision, though."

"You like him, then?"

"Much more than I had expected," she admitted. "There are certain sides of his character that I respect and admire, that I could, I believe, have confidence in. He strikes me as a serious and loyal gentleman. This much is favorable. But I should wish to know him better, much better.'

"But he has been paying court to you for weeks."

"No, my dear, he has not. We have never been on any other basis than a pleasant comradeship. "Is it possible?"

"It is as I tell you. I like that in him." She said it shortly, with a vigorous movement of her head. "If he pretended to be in love with me, I should distrust him at

Bettina began to laugh. "You are a queer fish!"
"Mid-Victorian?"

"Worse, a hundred times worse!"

"Now, Bettina, be serious. I want to ask you a serious question." She sat down, ask you a serious question. She sait down, and looking her in the eyes continued:
"There will be a great many things I shall expect to ask you. But first: If you were in my place, would you accept?"

"If I were in your place, yes. But if I were you, Jean, I don't know."
"Why?"

"Question of temperament. Oh, I know hat you are going to say. You are conwhat you are going to say. vinced that you have changed your point of view. I'm not sure, Jean, I'm not sure. Besides, there are a good many sides of life you don't know.

'As, for instance?" "Standards differ, you know. There is much more tolerance of a man's life here,

than with us."

"I wonder if it is any different," she said quickly. "What I have seen in New York, of the married set, makes me wonder if it isn't rather a question of which so-ciety is the more hypocritical."

"Possibly." Bettina hesitated. want to make plain to you the probabili-ties. Frankly, I have no patience with the woman who marries for position over here, and then cries out when she discovers what



Happy and Safe on Firestones

The automobile is universally accepted the tread to hold true and avoid danas a big factor in the social side of family life. So women, more and more, are concerned with every aid that contributes to its safety and comfort.

Recognizing this aroused interest, and the vital importance of tire equipment, Firestone has left nothing undone to add unusual safety features to Gum-Dipped Tires. Firestone engineers have developed a tread with broad, safe road contact, and of remarkable non-skid qualities. In deep snow or slush, on frozen ruts

ger of skid, slip or spin.

Your car, equipped with Gum-Dipped Tires, is easier to handle-responding more quickly to wheel and brake. Riding on Firestones you no longer dread the sudden stop, the impatient order to move on, the emergency turn in traffic. And all this means not only a safer ride but a far

more enjoyable comfortable one. with confidence and peace of mind.

See your nearest Firestone Dealer. Let him explain the many or oily boulevard, you can trust of Quality advantages which these tires give.

MOST MILES PER DOLLAR



AMERICANS SHOULD PRODUCE THEIR OWN RUBBER ... Human Struct

This digestive aid knows when to stop!



To relieve after-dinner distress, many people take alkalies like soda bicarbonate and preparations containing it. And they get the relief they want, because these chemicals neutralize the acidity that usually causes indigestion. heart-burn and flatulence.

But the drawback to alkalies of this class is that they don't know when to "call it a day." After they overcome the hyperacidity, they keep right on working. Unless you know exactly the right amount to take, they are apt to alkalize the contents of the stomach.

And that is a great handicap to normal digestion, for the stomach should be slightly acid (1-5 of 1 percent) properly to perform its work.

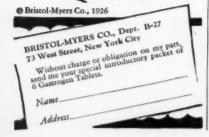
Gastrogen Tablets are free from this objection

The commendable thing about Gastrogen Tablets is that no matter how many you take, they do just one thing—neutralize the acidity that causes your discomfort. Then they stop. They can't possibly alkalize your stomach. Any excess that you might take simply passes harmlessly and unchanged through the system.

So, next time you feel uncomfortable after eating, try Gastrogen Tablets. They are mild, effective and 100 per cent harmless. They quickly quell digestive disturbance—within 15 to 20 minutes. They are aromatically pleasant to taste, and they are surprisingly good for sweetening the breath.

Your druggist has them in handy pocket tins of 15 tablets for 20c; also in cabinet size bottles of 60 tablets for 60c. If you wish to try them before you buy them, send the coupon for free introductory packet of 6 tablets

GASTROGEN Tablets



she has got into. If she is unwilling to accept their standards, she has no business to

"By this you mean, of course, that he has had his mistresses, and that I must not expect after marriage any long fidelity. Isn't that it?"

"Well, yes." Bettina was palpably em-

"I know all that. Now, let me answer you. A year ago, I suppose, I should have resented such a suggestion. What I have been through has made me examine conditions in society as a dispassionate observer trying to discover what is the securest basis of happiness. I have seen my friends make sudden romantic marriages, and in a year—or two years, or three—separate, disillusioned and bitter. If fidelity is the thing we are to insist on, there is certainly no guarantee that you will find it in a love marriage."
"And I thought I understood you!" Bet-

tina sat down, staring at her in amazement.
"If it had been possible for me to marry
Ted, if I had known as much as I do now,
I would not have made my mistakes—if I
had married him, I know that he would
never have looked at another woman.
There! Does that bring me back to your
sentimental mid-Victorian ideal?"

"Possibly."
"To be serious: What am I seeking? My home, children! Bettina dear," she said suddenly, with a genuine burst of feeling, "if I did not long for children, I would never marry." And she laid a hand on her cousin's shoulder.

"Believe me, that is true! But since I am going to marry, I want an outlook that will make my life as interesting as possible. To be the Princess de Sfax is not simply a question of my vanity. I honestly think I have very little of that. It is the opportunity to live life fully, interestingly, among brilliant men and women. I regard this marriage frankly as my career. Do you understand?"

"Slowly, yes."

"What am I offering in exchange? My fortune, nothing more. I wish to consider this as absolutely devoid of sentiment as it is. Oh, I know most women would clothe their ambition under a pretense of romance, would demand a show of affection and simulate an affection they did not feel. That is repugnant to me, because it is the meanest sort of cheating—cheating yourself. Therefore, if I marry the Prince de Sfax, I shall stick to my bargain."

"That I am certain of."
"Oh, if he were a sensualist, a brute, or a mere fortune-hunter, I would not consider him for a moment. But that is not his character. Whatever he does in the future, I know he will always treat me with respect and deference as the head of his house, the mother of his children. There will never be any public humiliation. These things I intend to discuss frankly with him."

BETTINA bounded out of her chair.
"Good heavens, child, you wont!"
"Of course I will," she answered quietly.

"Of course I will," she answered quietly. "I expect the fullest confidence. At the present moment he may be in love, probably has a mistress. I expect him to be just as honest with me as to his intentions as I shall be with him."

"Let me ask you one thing: You doubtless are convinced by what you have been telling me; but Jean, supposing later you find that you still have a heart, that your nature cannot be so easily suppressed as you think. What then?"

"I shall stick by my bargain, if he agrees to it, loyally, as you have done, Bettina." Bettina hesitated, on the point of dangerous confidence. At the end she said, shrugging her shoulders:

"Well, I see you are going to marry him!"
"It is possible."

JEAN knew now that the Prince Ludovic would declare himself, and she awaited his declaration without emotion, surprising herself with her own calm.

He came one afternoon in such a state of excitement that at once she guessed the object of his visit. There was a nervous tremor in the contact of his hand, a strange dilation of his feline eyes.

"Have you come to take me for a walk," she asked, looking at him intently, "or—" "I—if you don't mind—suppose just a cup

of tea first?"
"I believe he is really embarrassed," she thought, nodding to his request. "How extraordinary!"

She rang and gave directions, seating herself at the tea-table, but the Prince Ludovic had no sooner taken a chair than he was on his feet again, moving about the room. "What has upset you?" she asked, amused.

"I? I am upset?"

"Why, you're like an animal in a cage."
"Yes, I am upset." He passed his hand abruptly over his forchead. "The things that are happening in France are enough to tear your heart open. You saw what happened in the Chambre des Députés today? This law to bring back traitors and ambusqués, these insults to those who wear the uniform of a soldier! And we, we have to sit by, powerless, and see ourselves attacked in everything that is dear to us, our love of country, our religion, our homes."

"Why don't you go into politics?" she said, to divert his mind.

"I? What chance would I have?" He sat down abruptly and abruptly launched into a description of the political chaos of the country, speaking in jerky, interrupted sentences. When the conversation fell, she tried to revive it with discreet leading questions. He answered briefly. A certain embarrassment fell between them—long heavy intervals. Suddenly he put down his cup

and rose to his feet, erect, formal, military. "Mademoiselle, it is not proper that I should continue any longer without letting you know what my intentions are." He stopped, and she noticed that as he gathered himself together for the direct avowal his glance was set, avoiding the direct contact of her eyes. "I have the honor, the very great honor, mademoiselle, to ask you to be my wife."

"He is suffering," she thought. "There is some one else."

This realization was so swift that it stirred her to pity. She rose to her feet, looked at him very straight, and yielding to the communicated emotion, said impulsively:

"Prince, is this your own desire?" He drew back, so startled, that with a swift change of mood she put out her hand. "No. Don't answer me now! That was said on impulse. Permit me first to tell you that I am extremely sensible of the honor you have paid me. I can say to you at once that it is an offer that I shall consider with the respect that it deserves."

He bowed, perhaps to hide the expression on his face.

"For that I thank you, mademoiselle."

He said it so low that she could hardly hear him.

"And I wish to thank you," she said quietly, "for not having simulated any feeling you did not feel. It will take me a long time to make my decision; but it will be easier because there need be no pretense between us that it is anything but an alliance, on the basis of mutual interests."

He looked at her, astonished at so much firmness, frankness and dignity in a young

"I am sorry that I asked you the question that I did," she continued, with her deep eyes set in seriousness, "because I have not yet reached the point where I have the right to ask that question."

Wonderful NEW ROUGE SHADES

by the creators of Princess Pat English Tint



How you will love these new shades! What new opportunities for beauty they afford! Each shade an original—a surprise.

FOR instance, there is SQUAW. The very sound of the name makes you want to go right to the beauty counter to see "what in the world 'SQUAW' can be."

SQUAW is that most glorious of all complexion tints—the glow of radiant, vibrant health. SQUAW symbolizes the out o' doors girl. It is a spirited color. It suggests youthful vigor and eager, racing blood. It is a joyous color. Nature bestows it upon a favored few. It is such color as comes fleetingly after a brisk walk in chill weather.

SQUAW does for everyone what Nature does for the few. A deft application gives to your cheeks instantly the beautiful, zestful tints of perfect health. You'll love it.

And NITE—An Entirely New Rouge Expressly for Evening

The most beautiful rouges by day have always been a compromise by night. Artificial lighting changed them, stole their brilliance, made them harsh. Even the degree of light was a trial. The effect you achieved before a softly lighted mirror dulled, or paled, or changed in the glare of brilliant electric rays.

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Only if lipstick be used, is the utmost in beauty realized. Powder velvets the skin, rouge timts the cheeke aderably. But lips, pale by contrast, spoil the whole effect. Color them naturally, gloriously, saucily with Princess Pat Lip Stick. Keeps the lips soft, too.



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Here is perhaps the daintiest of all rouge shades. For the elaborate afternoon function, with your gowns of soft pastel and shimmering silks, for the times you crave artistic harmony, No. 18 THEATRH will charm you beyond measure.

This shade appeals especially to the woman who is subtle, who loves Worth frocks, who is sought by men of affairs, and is altogether lovely and sophisticated in her realm of culture and fashion.

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So that you may know for yourself the Superiority of Princess Pat Rouge Shades, we will take pleasure in sending you one sample FREE.

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PROTECT it from those two common ills-dandruff and falling hair. Either of them, unchecked, leads to baldness!

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ED. PINAUD'S Eau de Quinine "Mademoiselle, I assure you," he said in low voice, "it is my own decision." She raised a hand to check him.

"I have a great respect for you, Prince. I must have. This respect for each other, confidence in each other, is the one basis on which we must meet, isn't it?"

"I don't quite understand."

"If it comes to a decision, monsieur, I shall expect to give you the reasons in my own life that are inclining me to a mariage de raison, and I shall expect complete frankness from you."

He stared at her, started to reply, and

stopped.
"I am a young girl, monsieur," she said, smiling, "but my life has been a sad one, and in order that it may have a time of calm and happiness, I have had to accustom myself to looking on the world as it is. When we talk things over, you need not fear; you can talk to me as you would to another man."
"You understand, mademoiselle," he blurt-

ed out, very much embarrassed, "ho strange, how contrary to my traditions-

"Monsieur, you are not simply seeking a fortune, or I a title. I have utterly misjudged you if that were so. We both earnestly desire to maintain a great respect and a great deference for each other, don't we?

a great deterence for each other, don't were fif we marry, it is as good friends, each with his eyes open in perfect loyalty."
"What you say, mademoiselle." he said solemnly, "only increases the estimation I have always had for your character. You may ask me any question you desire."

AFTER he had left, she was surprised at the feeling of calm which possessed her. She still looked forward to a long period of self-examination, but she had a curious intuition that the definite step had been taken, and that every other step which would logically follow would but depend on what had been implied that afternoon. For the first time she felt a settled peace instead of the restlessness which had dominated her so long, that feeling of being un-placed, groping. This was the crowning act which terminated victoriously the long fight back to readjustment, the taking-up of life again with the determination to win from it a new vitality and significance.

"What ages have passed since the last year!" she thought as she went to her room to be alone. "I wonder if anyone would recognize me now."

She took up an old-fashioned mirror, the gift of Ted, and the act recalled him to her memory. She remained a moment thoughtful. But no disturbing revulsion came. She remembered the long years of their romance with a pensive tenderness. It had been the good time. She was glad she had had that. Happiness remembered, to which she would return in the secret paths which she would return in the secret paths of her imagination! She wondered calmly what had become of him. Readjustment too. Everyone readjusted himself. Life must go on, lived out somehow. He was a brave spirit. Happy in his way too. He had such a bubbling love of life, that in the end, of course, it had reasserted itself. Kitty? Why should she not have changed too, for the better—now that she had what she had always grayed money and security? she had always craved, money and security?

"Dreve of Virginia"

There's one of the most engaging personages that has appeared in the magazines in a long time-a creation of James Francis Dwyer. Another episode in his adventurous life abroad will be described in an early issue.

Quite a difference from the little waif, desperately resolved to find her place, with no one to help her. Conditions had made her; conditions would soften her, bring out all the gentleness and charm that was in her.

She hoped they were happy, both happy.

That she could think of them with such tranquillity showed her how much she had won. Tranquillity—a great tranquillity at

Then abruptly, in the confident calm of her new outlook, without warning one night she looked across the maze of dancers at Ciro's and saw a Ted she did not know, staring gauntly over at her.

Chapter Thirty-three

WHEN Jean without forewarning, ut-terly unprepared, looked up and saw out of the nondescript mass, out of the gray weeks and months of the past, the startled face of Ted Larrabee staring at her, she had a feeling as though every drop of blood had rushed from her heart. Her hand went convulsively to her throat, and her hand was cold and moist. A great wave of emotion caught her, flung her upward, receded, left her weak and panic-stricken. Gone in a twinkling was all the flimsy structure of her new philosophy, at the first imperious beating of her heart! Mercifully, a swarm of dancers rushed in between them. saw Bettina's glance set on her in surprise. She closed her eyes, drew a big breath and steadied herself.

Some one, one of the young attachés in the party, was asking her to dance.
"In a moment. The next one. I'm not quite ready."

Fortunately there were a dozen in the party. Several got up, pushing back their chairs, joining the dancers. Bettina in passing caught her hand.

What's happened?" "Pay no attention."
"You are ill."

"No. Don't notice me."

Her eyes went irresistibly to meet Ted's, and meeting them, held fast, heedless of everything. He did not bow; she did not everything. He did not bow; she did not smile. Nothing so trivial, nothing so futile. Later on, time enough for deceptions. Later on they would greet each other, affect surprise, murmur lip-phrases. Now only a swift illuminating moment of stark verity, each looking across the barrier of time, searching, questioning, demanding answer. It was as though her voice had gone to him,

"Ted, Ted, what have you become?"
"You see. And you?" his look replied.
"You are different, dreadfully different."
Then, as though his lips were at her ear: "I have not forgotten.

"I think I can never forget."

It passed between them impetuously, fiercely, completely understood. She saw his glance go down to the table, his lips working in the old familiar way they used. to do when he was fighting for control. His hands came up in a taut grip, and across the room she knew how tensely his whitenfingers were straining and twisting.

"He is unhappy. He still loves me."
Two thoughts, filling her being with terror and a swift cruel ecstasy, sending every vein pulsing. Then a quick compassionate tender-ness rose, the maternal craving in her for the boy in him. Changed—oh, dreadfully changed! He was sitting apart from his group, gloomily unconcerned, bored—resentful. How well she knew the stubborn look in his eyes, the look of being dragged out to do the thing he did not want to do! The boyish quality gone, the face set in sternness, gaunt lines about the eyes and mouth, a face writ in suffering.

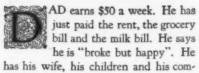
He rose and threaded his way through the

dancers, seeking the opportunity of confusion

"Broke" ~ but Worth \$79,100.00



@ 1927 M. L. I. Co.



fortable little home. He feels far from rich, but in reality he and his family are worth a small fortune.

Because they have good health, this typical American family represents \$79,100 of the nation's wealth.

As a useful American, Dad, at 30, can figure himself as actually worth \$31,000 today-for that is the present value of his future earnings less his personal expenses. Dad is one of thousands who are earning \$50 a week-an average Dad. If Dad is frequently sick or if he dies young, he will be worth less than \$31,000. With-better-than-average health and longer life, he should be worth a great deal more. His family will be better protected, better nourished and given a greater chance for future success if Dad keeps well.

Mother's contribution to the family

wealth-her time and energy, love and devotion-can never be measured in money. But at a very conservative estimate, the money value of her services must be at least half that of Dad's-\$15,500.

That rosy-cheeked, four-months-old baby boy is worth \$9,500 this minute, while big Brother, seven, and little Sister, five, are worth \$16,000 and \$7,100 each as future productive citizens.

But their fortunes are locked up in their own bodies. They will reach the full measure of their wealth only by keeping healthy and fit for their daily workotherwise their fortunes will shrink.

Let Dad-every dad from coast to coast -learn how to use the great discoveries of modern medical science to prevent disease and prolong the lives of his children, his wife and himself.

And if he thinks that he is "broke", let him find out what he really is worth in dollars and cents to himself, to his family, and to his country.

Contrasted with the total material wealth of the country in 1922—rail-roads, buildings, land, mines, etc.—which country in 1922 ...
roads, buildings, lan
mines, etc.— whic
amounted to 321 billidollars, the economic val
of the lives of the enpopulation was 1500 t
lions. More than six t
lion dollars were lost 1
year because of needle
deaths.

With these tremendous values in mind the im-portance of health and wel-fare work becomes ap-parent.

Seventeen years ago the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company instituted a health and nursing service for policyholders. More than 20 millions of dollars were expended in this campaign. During this period, the mortality rate of policyholders declined more than 30 per cent and the accumulated saving which can be ascribed to welfare work, has totalled the amazing sum of 43 millions of dollars.

The Metropolitan will gladly mail, free, its bookgladly mail, free, its book-let, "The Value of Human Life at all Ages". It tells what you are worth, also the potential worth of each member of your family.

HALEY FISKE, President.



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to bridge over the difficult moment. He was before her, looking down, his hand gathering hers up into it. Her heart seemed to stop. She tried to smile, couldn't, looked away, looked down.
"It is good to see you, Jean," he said at

last.

"Kitty is here?" "She is dancing."

"I thought you were-"

"We have been here three days only."
No questions. Of what use? All h All had been said between them in the first long look. He was in torment, and he loved her as he had always loved her. She had right to that knowledge—but she knew. She had no

"Tell me one thing before the others come," he said, looking into her face. heard—they told me you were engaged." He waited a moment and said almost in-audibly: "Is that true?" audibly:

She met his eyes, without flinching, brave-

ly, all inhibitions forgot.
"No. No, of course not."

The thing was now unthinkable! Never. "Ah!"

He drew a long breath, and something almost like a smile shone in his eyes.
"It is very good to see you."

The next moment Kitty was rushing over. "Jean darling! You! What a joy! How

perfectly wonderful!"

Kitty, triumphant, fascinating, voluble, embracing her rapturously, while her husband stood by looking down with a strange

"Where are you? Who are you staying with? Countess Kittery? Of course! I had heard! Darling, how good to see you again! I have oodles to tell you."

'How well you look."

"Nothing but dressmakers, my dear. Just "Nothing but dressmakers, my dear. Just think of running in on you like this—almost the first night! How romantic, isn't it, Ted dear? Now you will enjoy yourself. I leave him to you, Jean. He's gotten to be a' dreadful old bear. Ferocious, my dear. Oh, I don't mind—we're an old married couple, lang egge! We must see lets and couple long ago! We must see lots and lots of each other!"

She was gone back in the arms of her

waiting partner.

"Who is with you?"

She said it to say something.
"Well-" He hesitated, answered finally: "The usual crowd-some sort of a count, an Englishwoman and her lover, a couple of dancing men-you know.'

BETTINA returned. Jean introduced him, B saw the swift divining query in her cousin's eyes, and the impulsive liking following swiftly on the comprehension. Will you dance with me?"

She hesitated, knew she shouldn't, rose, surrendered to his arm, followed him. was happy, intoxicated, heedless. She had ceased to think, to reason or to question; she knew that it was wrong, that she was hurting him, hurting herself, but didn't care -happy, hungrily happy. Her eyelids were heavy; her breath came slowly, deliciously, filling her whole being with a poignant fragrance. The narcotic rhythm of violins was surging through her mind, driving out all other conscious thoughts, sweeping away all inhibitions, loosing the old denied emo-tions, longing and cravings, the cruel hunger-Forbidden fruit, bitter and sweet, to be paid for in anguish and starvation to-morrow! But what of that, of the price? The moment was hers, complete, possessive, imperious.

"I don't care," she said to herself defiantly. "I want this, I want this!"

"Jean, I'm sorry."

She opened her eyes, looked up into the torture in his glance.

"I just can't," he said incoherently. stopped, took her back to her seat, avoided her eyes, bowed and left. She saw him sit down, a moment of pretense, rise and

"What have I done!" She felt a swift pain gripping her heart, had visions of his storming through the night, with the old wild desire to drown memories in a b fuddled brain. Then again Kitty's voice:

"What have you done with Ted, my dear?

"I?" She looked up into the sharp flam-g look, dissembled. "Where is he?" "It" She looked up into the snarp flaming look, dissembled. "Where is he?"
"Gone home. I ought to be terribly jealous. I'm not," she laughed. "Well, he's still in love with you—in case you don't know it.... Heavens, Jean, don't look so shocked."

A flush of anger. "Really, I think your

remark quite unnecessary."

Kitty, opening her eyes, making a comical grimace with her mouth, vastly amused,

patronizing. "How antiquated you are, Jean! But I don't care in the least. If poor old Ted can get a thrill out of dancing with an old flame, why, bless his heart, let him do it!

All there is in life is thrills, isn't there?"
"She is jealous. She has not forgiven me, and she is trying to wound me," thought. But her pride aroused, she answered lightly: "Kitty, you're as big a goose as ever. When will you dine with us? goose as ever. When will you dine with us? You are the happiest-looking person in the

"Yes." She gave her a sharp look and "Yes, of a funny, twisted little smile. course.'

Fortunately the introduction to Bettina cut short the conversation. They made a rendezvous for tea on the morrow.

"I must not dislike her. She is right. I wrong," Jean thought. There much she wanted to know that only Kitty could tell her. Her conscience reproached her. She must hold to the old friendship. Besides, she had promised it.

MAY I ask them to dinner?" Jean in-quired of Bettina.

"What, that little devil?" said Bettina, astonished. situation was difficult. You've

guessed it, of course."

Bettina nodded. 'I like the bear. He's so gruff and shaggy

and simple-hearted." "Funny you should say that. That was my pet name—Teddy Bear."

"It's a real bear now," said Bettina sharp"I shouldn't care to try its patience

"Do you mind if I go home quietly?" All of a sudden she felt weak, dispirited. "Do you want to go now?"

"No, not just now."

While Kitty was present, she could not retreat; the comedy must be played out. She danced feverishly, smiling with a set smile, her eyes watching the woman who was his wife. A different Kitty. Very much a woman of the world—new assurance, versed in the art of provocation, careless of how she showed it, flirting outrageously, for a special reason, perhaps. A new charm, reckless, daring, but an undeniable charm. The men she danced with were visibly sub-

Kitty went at last, impatient to scour Montmartre, to visit half a dozen places in vogue. The fictitious gavety left Iean; she sat down, giving a little tired look at Betunderstandingly maneuvered her tina, who into the car. . .

At three o'clock when Bettina came home, Jean was lying inertly, her great eyes open, staring at the patterned shadows on the ceiling.

"Poor child!"

Bettina drew her cool hand over the hot forehead, leaned over and kissed the swollen

"I have cried my heart out, like a child.

I never cry." She turned and fixed her eyes on her cousin. "And I made him do it!" she said solemnly.

Chapter Thirty-four

KITTY arrived the next afternoon. She came in lightly, her eyes sparkling, her peeping out from under a rakish hat. The abrupt, tomboy movements had given way to a sinuous, undulating charm. Kitty, who once arrived tumbling and romping about the room, sliding riotously over pol-ished floors, in a confusion of disarranged skirts, now came up to her daintily, with a grace that was conscious. A bit patronizing, a touch of malice in the eyes for the friend who was still a girl.

"Tried to make Ted come," she drawled after the first effusions, "but he went off growling. I shall never break him in socially. And now, darling, tell me all about

Jean affected ignorance.

'About what?'

"The Prince. I hear he is frightfully attractive. Oh, don't be a sly puss. Every-thing is known over here."

"So it's the Prince de Sfax now, is it?" Kitty looked at her suspiciously. "What? Nothing definite?"

"Are you disappointed?" said Jean, laugh-

ing.
"It sounded too wonderful! Really? Seriously, nothing?"
"Seriously, nothing."

They had gone arm in arm into the garden, where the children ran up and then stopped uncertainly at the sight of stranger.

"Oh, you beautiful children!"

Kitty was down on her knees, smiling, holding out her arms. Jean watched her, a little amused at her swift dramatization.

"She doesn't care for children at all," she thought. But the children, won by her prettiness, her inviting smile and charming ways, yielded to her seductions and surways, yielded to her seductions and sur-rendered instantly. Kitty played with the toys, a great woolly dog and a tumbling Chinaman, asked them their names, took them in her arms, and having won them, was satisfied.

"Run along now, my dears," Jean said, illing. "You can come back later." smiling.

"Adorable children! Wonder if I had one how it would look." Kitty settled languorously into a chaise-longue and agitated the tip of her little gray slipper, contem-plating it a thoughtful moment. "Jean, do you suppose it's possible we can be friends again?

'I wonder if you really want to be." That's so like you." She laughed nervely. "You are so disconcertingly direct. You do impress me with your grand manner. You always did. Of course I want to go back." She sat up solemnly. "You make back." She sat up solemnly. "You make me furious at times. But I always have looked up to you. Besides, there are moments when you get dreadfully sort of alone
—and new friends can't help."

Kitty had come to win her, and the realization put Jean on her guard.

"You have always been like a sister to e. Nothing can change that." Again Kitty contemplated her slipper.

"I was hoping you were going to marry." "Why?"

"Because Ted doesn't want you to." 'Really, Kitty, that's too outrageous!"

What's the use of pretending-you know was crazy about him when I married him.

Now? Funny world!"

"You don't look as though your heart

were breaking," said Jean, summoning up a smile. The conversation was painful to her; yet she had an overwhelming curiosity to know more.



WHAT DID THE DENTISTS SAY?

In the sensible care of beauty and health, authorities now insist on the importance of protecting. The Danger Line from acids

For years E. R. Squibb & Sons have issued warning that the line where gums and teeth meet is in reality The Danger Line. That acids forming in the crevices along The Danger Line—particularly between the teeth—strike the most treacherous blow to your teeth and gums.

However, because of the confusion caused by dozens of conflicting theories - and because we believed the public should receive confirmation on a question of such importance-we decided to bring the matter before the only real existing authority, the dental profession itself. So we went to one of the greatest dental clinics in the world-where every year more than 100,000 treatments are given. We also asked practicing dentists everywhere to state the result of their experience. From both sources we obtained almost unanimous agreement on the following facts:

(1) Acids are the most frequent cause of decay and gum infection.

(2) The most serious trouble occurs at the place where teeth meet gums known as The Danger Line—especially at that part of The Danger Line between the teeth where a tooth-brush cannot reach.

(3) The best product known to prevent these acids from causing decay and irritating the gum tissues is Milk of Magnesia.

Isn't it logical, then, that Squibb's Dental Cream, because it contains more than 50% of Squibb's Milk of Magnesia in a most convenient and effective form, will definitely

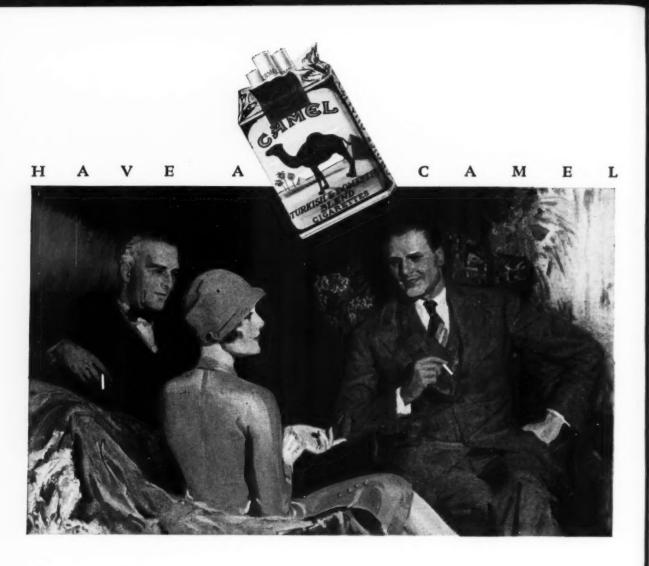
SQUIBB'S DENTAL CREAM help prevent the danger that menaces your teeth and gums?

Squibb's Dental Cream goes even further. Other tooth pastes may contain Milk of Magnesia and still not combine the other ingredients necessary to clean and care for your teeth and gums properly.

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Each time you use Squibb's Dental Cream tiny particles of Squibb's Milk of Magnesia are forced into every pit and crevice where acids can form. There they not only neutralize these acids, but remain to give protection long afterwards.

Squibb's Dental Cream is on sale at all druggists — 40c a large tube.



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Camel perfection has resulted in a demand that has never been known before or since. There has never been cigarette popularity that could compare with Camel's. Each year, millions of experienced smokers, who are willing to pay any price for quality, find in Camels every good thing ever wanted in a cigarette.

Here's a smoke invitation that's leading millions to an entirely new conception of cigarette contentment and satisfaction—

"Have a Camel!"

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Kitty laughed.

"I take things lightly—luckily. Oh, it's all amusing. Funny, when Ted was rambling in the gutter, I adored him. Thrilling! Now, my dear, all he's interested in is books, and the most dreadful lot of highbrows you ever saw. If he'd only go on a spree and smash things! Honestly, it bores me. Good Lord, I'm young! I've got to live! Heavens, if you would only get him out of this rut, I'd turn him over to you

"I wonder why you are saying these things to me," said Jean, staring at her.

Kitty shrugged her shoulders.

"Thought it would give you some satis-

Before Jean could reply, Bettina came up, and the conversation veered off dangerous waters. Kitty, after a moment's estimation of the Countess, chatted of trivialities.
When she rose to go, she held out her arms
to Jean, and embraced her effusively.
"Beware of that young person," said

"There's nothing very bad or very good in Kitty. That's the trouble." Jean medi-tated a moment. "She never has really suffered in her life. She skims the surface of things. She wants to be happy and doesn't know how."

"A pretty face, money, appetites and no hibitions. I can see her progress." Jean defended her half-heartedly. Why inhibitions.

had Kitty come? Jealous or only curious? What surprised her in herself was a sudden impulse toward her old friend, the longing to forgive and forget, to cling to something the past that had not been entirely washed away.

A FEW days later the Larrabees came to dinner. She sat beside Ted. An hour before, she had been in a panic. She found herself in an inexplicable mood of levity, an instinctive attitude of defense.

Ted, I'm supposed to scold you!"

He was perplexed at her lightness.

"Kitty has been complaining of you!" He looked at her in surprise, and then down the table, where Kitty as usual was bringing her lively eyes into play. 'Well?"

The reluctance she felt in him drove her

on recklessly.

"Too much husband, forgotten how to play, dreadfully serious! I believe you are even addicted to reading books!" "I see."

"Reformed character, Ted? Women are inconsistent, aren't they?" "Kitty has had nothing to do with it," he said curtly.

She felt an impending moment of seriousness, and nervously tried to evade it.

"Tell me about your trip." "I'm looking at things a little differently,"

he said, ignoring her lead.

"What are you going to do?" she said rapidly. "Take an apartment? You will love Paris. . . . You aren't listening. Whom are you looking at? Oh, the Countess de Sezonsac. I don't wonder."

"If you want to know if I am happy, why

don't you ask me?"

Her heart stood still.
"Please, Ted," she said in a low voice. "For heaven's sake, don't try to make conversation between us two. I just simply

Look here!' Obediently she raised her eyes to his.

"I can handle the situation," he said quietly. "But after what has been between us, Jinny, we aren't to meet again like this.

Don't you care to know how things have turned out?"

She shook her head, but her eyes asked questions.

"Let me talk to you some day alone?" "No."

"You are probably right. I am smiling because I mustn't look too serious. I didn't want to come tonight. I guess you know why. Tell me what you want, while we have the chance. Are we going to see know why. each other, or is this your way of ending

She hesitated a long moment, studied his ace, frowned. And though she hadn't face, frowned.

spoken, he answered:

'Yes, I knew you would say that, Jinny. Well, my ideas are clearer now. I don't fool myself any more. I don't believe in this eternally sacrificing yourself for another! Life is too precious. Everyone nowadays is going straight for his own happiness, even if it means smashing up things—everyone except you and me." He broke off disjoint-"Lots of things I would like to ask

She shook her head.

"A lot can be understood without saying anything.'

E dug a fork into the roll by his plate, He dug a folk it a moment, shrugged his shoulders and looked at her with a smile.
"Have you been to Cannes? You must

go, you know-Monte Carlo's quite second The gambling-rooms are fascinating. All the scandals of the world gravitate there, ex-kings, ex-princes, grand dukes, black-legs, adventurers. Nothing like the democracy of

the gambling-rooms."
"What do you want to ask me?" she

said abruptly.

He stopped, frowned. "No, I wont talk to you like this. You've got to see me sometime. I'm where I am because you asked me to go through with it-for no other reason but to hold your You owe me something. respect. heavens, Jinny, when two people have loved each other as we have, has everything got to end? Can't we save anything out of it? Have we got to meet as strangers, almost as antagonists?"

'Not strangers, Ted!" "Jinny," he said impulsively, "whatever you do, don't marry if you don't really care. You may think you know what it means. You don't. You can't. No one can! I wish to God I felt sure you wouldn't."

She did not answer, silent, wondering. "Now, as to Kitty and myself. I'm telling you now because you probably wont see me again. There is about as much real companionship between us as between you and that butler. I have no illusions; I have served as a stepping-stone. When she gets ready—good-by! Meanwhile there are cer-When she gets tain rules I've laid down so long as she bears my name. Afterward—" He shrugged his shoulders. "No, I can't talk to you like this. It's too grotesque! You and I, sitting here —playing at things we aren't! Don't look like that, Jinny. It's rotten enough as it is."

He turned, and after a moment she took up the conversation with her neighbor. After dinner Ted deliberately avoided her. She went to her room heavy-hearted and dis-

pirited.

Chapter Thirty-five

JEAN had refused to see Larrabee. J after all, was it not an evasion? Sooner or later in Paris she knew they would come face to face, inevitably must meet.

The thought of him obsessed her. need to be told what she knew, the emptiness and the tragedy of his marriage. She saw the change it had wrought in him. There was a new authority about him now, fashioned out of conflict. He was graver, fashioned out of conflict. He was graver, sterner. No indecision. This was the man at last.

Could she see him again? Could she trust herself, knowing that he was another

woman's, even though that woman no longer cared? Kitty didn't care—contemptuously didn't care.

They would divorce inevitably, the day when it suited Kitty to go the way of a

caprice. .

Paris, that in its earlier contacts had brought to Jean its salutary healing, its feeling of impersonality, the sensation of her own relative importance against the background of great currents of life and history, all at once this Paris troubled Jean pro-foundly—Paris of the spring, of the leaf and the flowers, Paris of ebullient joy and laughter, Paris of lovers. Wherever she went, she felt youth and love in the air, frankly displayed: working-girls laughing into the eyes of their companions, flowers in their hair; coquetry of thrumming May nights, scent of hidden budding along the avenues, lure of soft lights, pink and amber; garlanded electricity in the air, disquieting and insidious.

The spring was riotously in, and she was not a part of it. The contrast of the frank happiness of simple lives oppressed her with sense of her own loneliness, as day after day she wandered under the unfolding green shaded avenues, fleeing the thing she wanted, seeking what she had fled from.

"JINNY!" At last! She heard his voice, felt his presence at her back, closed her eyes. He came eagerly to her side.
"I knew some day I would find you!

"It had to be."

She had been returning along the Seine. He joined her. She fell naturally into his step, walked silently, happily. She dared not look into his waiting eyes, afraid to show him too much. She turned, and leaning on the low stone wall, pointed out the fishermen on the quai below, said irrelevantly, to hide the light she knew was shining in her eyes:

"I must see one of them catch something!"

"Do they? I've waited for years."
"There! No—only a false alarm."
"Do you mind my coming on you like is? I've watched for you every day." She shook her head.

"It had to happen."

He took up eagerly.
"Steal away with me for a few hours. Jump in a boat and run out into the country, somewhere, anywhere. Will you, Jinny?"

She reflected a moment, straightened up and slipped her hand under his arm. They went in silence down the stone steps, past the eternal fishermen, toward the float.

"Do you suppose we could peep into their baskets? What do you suppose they catch?" Larrabee put the question in French. portly fellow in yellow checks and flowing red tie, smiled and opened his bag.

"Why, they're nothing but minnows!" "Minnows that can be eaten. Merci bien, monsieur. Good luck."

They climbed onto the float. Their boat far below the bridge was plowing across the current. She turned again to the fishermen, lazily flicking their lines. A childish thought flashed into her mind.

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"If they catch one before the boat arrives, everything will come out all right." Superstition. When and how?

The low, scudding boat came fussily up e river. The four fishermen, lazy as the river. shadows, continued to flick their poles.
"How absurd I am!" she thought, laugh-

"What a strange idea! How ing inwardly. old am I, really?"

"By Jove, he has caught one!" cried Ted. A diminutive silver sparkle flitting through the air.

Really? You're sure?"

"Absolutely!" "Oh, I'm so glad!"

She laughed, absurdly happy, as she followed him over the teetering gangway. Where do you want to sit?

"In the bow, of course! remember?"

He looked at her, not catching her mean-ing at once. Then a light broke on him. ing at once. Oh, on the steamer coming back from

Europe when we were youngsters!"
"No, I've changed my mind; let's sit here.

IN the bow a girl and boy were leaning over the railing watching the spray. She stared at them, caught an answering look in his eyes and smiled.

"How long ago was it?"

"Ten years, almost."
"You were the shaggiest thing."
"And you—" He stopped. "You were just as you are now, thinking your own thoughts and keeping them to yourself."

"I have changed more than you think." "Tell me some things."

She checked him with an uplifted hand. "Nothing serious, not now. Perhaps later. Do you know what we are going to do,

Teddy Bear?'

"What?"

"Run up the river until the impulse seizes us to jump off and explore. Then we're go-ing to find some funny little old inn, tuck napkins under our chips and behave like a couple of ridiculous children. No, don't try to understand, but please say yes

"It's yes—and I understand."
"All right then. Nothing serious!" "Nothing!"

The river smiled beneath them; the roofs Paris flitted backward at their sides, under one bridge and out toward another, the Trocadero behind, the empty upward flight of the Eiffel Tower impending above

"It's all so beautiful," she murmured. Barges, with nervous impudent dogs, acclaimed their passing. Color everywhere, blue blouses and red handkerchiefs. stallions swaying against giant loads. Above, lazy fluffy clouds piling up against the blue

—Paris in leaf, Paris in flower.

"What a lark!"

'Never been on the river?'

"Never. Where are they all going?"

"Picnicking, of course They'll out in the woods; the old fellow in shirt-sleeves will lie on his back puffing at his pipe, and the mother will delve into the lunch-basket."

"It's like a fairy basket, isn't it? Imagine the good things that must be in it!" "Shall I ask him?"

"Will he mind? I'm awfully curious. Larrabee struck up a conversation. moment they were chatting gayly, the delectable contents of the basket, including two bottles of wine, displayed with pride.

"They'll know just the place for us."

A consultation with great difference of opinion, but Monsieur's authority prevailing. Descend at the next bridge and wind through the woods, a few kilometers, to the Trois Pigeons, ask for poulet marengo, a merlan frité and the little wine of Anjou!

They thanked them, laughing, and descended with many waves of the hands.

"Good luck, monsieur et madame."
"And don't forget the little wine of

Aniou!

They lost their way, found it again and arrived at the Trois Pigeons in time to lunch on the terrace, with Paris glowing in the sunlight, across the forests.

"There's Montmartre and the Sacre Cœur."
"What's that way off to the right?"
"Notre Dame."

"Saint Sulpice, rather."

"And the gold dome of the Invalides. How clear everything is!

A buxom waitress with comprehending eyes.
"Monsieur et madame would like to or-

Then a glance at the left hand, bare of wedding ring-lovers, of course; still, with Americans, one never knew-fiancées per-haps. The tall monsieur very much in

underfoot, apéritifs and daintily arranged hors d'œuvres. Paris in the distance, Paris left behind, other things left

"What am I thinking of?" she asked erself indolently. Nothing. No definite she asked herself indolently. Nothing. No definite resolves. Escape, a lark, unpremeditated impulses.

Larrabee, sensing her mood, keyed up himself, laughing, joking, ten years dropped himself, laughing, joking, ten years dropped away, engaged everyone in conversation, the proprietor, the bustling little wife come down from behind her counter, the group of laborers at the next table, the two couples snuggling side by side, arm in arm. pretended a birthday, ordered champagne for the crowd, had the proprietress down for her glass too, toasted the Trois Pigeons, the poulet marengo, old comradeship, Lafayette! Monsieur le Proprietaire, not to be outdone, produced the liqueurs.

Chic types, les Américains!"

HOW funny they were! I don't know when I've laughed so hard."

Back into the woods, under heavy dark-ened foliage, slanting shafts of sunlight ahead through the trees.

"A good day," he said grimly.
She assented with her eyes, looked dreamily down the long green vistas, as though looking down the future, wondered, felt the passage of a cloud across the sunlight, was

"All the rest doesn't seem real," he continued.

She had an impulse to take his arm, stepping close to him as others were doing, hesitated and moved a little away.
"Talk to me, Ted."
"Yes."

Then a silence.

"What are you going to do?"
"Stick it out. There are complications." She looked up at him with a little timidity. The old balance had been changed. She felt his superior strength and gloried in it. "You are so much more real now, Ted."

He looked at her, puzzled.

"I'm quite proud of you."
Another silence, and then he burst out:
"If I've stuck, it's because I didn't want

you to think me a quitter. It's a mess, but

it's not my fault, Jinny."

"I know that." She spoke impulsively.
Then a need of justification. "Ted, I believed she loved you."

You and I were both too young," he said "You and I were both too young," he said quietly. "We didn't think so, but there is a lot in life, the workings out of life, that was beyond us. You thought Kitty and I could make a go of our marriage by trying to make the best of it. But it is deeper than that. You thought Kitty loved me. Well, the deep't. She only loved me for what I she doesn't. She only loved me for what I could bring her."

'I'm afraid that's true."

"Well, there are lots like her. It's a realis-



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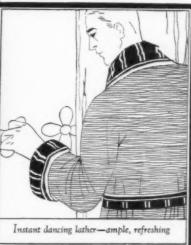
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tic society we live in. Young girls are not often carried away. They know definitely what they want, and that's all they're in love with. I don't think many of them even take the trouble to delude themselves.

"You know I think Kitty did?"

"Perhaps, for Kitty always wants to jus-tify herself. You see, Jinny," he said with a sudden warmth, "you and I were doomed. a sudden warmen, you and I were doomed. We were given, God help us, a heart and a conscience. We're not playing the game as the rest are playing it. That's why we are the ones who get battered. We're not living in our day."

"You are dreadfully bitter, Ted, aren't you?" she replied, thinking over what he

had said.

"It is all so unnecessary. That's the hard part of it. But you wont change.

She looked up at him swiftly, and then down with a sharp sudden breath.

"What a farce it all is! What two little fools we were, two young fools, playing at chivalry, honor, trying to dramatize life. Life is such a cheat, Jean. We throw our lives away for something we believe in, something we find out later to be false. Then we have to grin and bear it. Would I do what I did over again? Not now!" He turned suddenly. "Would you?"

She was not ready for the question.

"Don't ask me."

"I am asking you," he said stubbornly.
"Was it worth it? If there's a ghost of a chance of happiness for us, you've got to face the truth. You and I were real, and we gave up everything for what-for some one who plays with life like a careless child. We gave up a reality for a sham! wrong, Jinny. Sacrificing one life to another doesn't work out. I suppose you expected me to go under?"

"He always was incoherent when he was wrought up," she thought with a little feel-ing of tenderness at her old Ted come back.

was afraid, yes."

"You asked me what I'm going to do," he said, jumping to another thought. "Just wait. It wont be long. Kitty will attend to that!"

"Ted!"

"She's behaving now, because she's afraid of me—and she's no coward, either. There have been scenes. One row after, another. Just hell! She is free to go-any time-but while she stays, my name's not going to be dragged in the mud!"

Ted!

AT the touch of her hand, he stopped, clenched his fists, drew a long breath and flung open his arms.
"What a life!" he exclaimed.
"Ted," she asked slowly, "why don't you divorce?"

He stopped, looked at her amazed.

"You say that?' Her lip trembled a little, but her eyes shone as she looked at him.

"You've gone through enough, Ted. Even I see that. I don't want you to suffer any

"I never thought you'd see it this way."
"This is different, and where there is no love on either side and no one to be hurt—"
"You don't know the worst," he said be-

tween his teeth.

"What?"

"There's going to be a child. I stand there looking like that, Jinny. . . Don't stand there looking like that, Jimly. No heaven's sake, let's keep walking. Yes, think of it, a child to come out of this! Now you understand. No matter what she does, I've got to stick. It's only decent. Afterward, that'll take care of itself."

He looked at her, walking with set gaze

"Don't tell me you would have married me if—if it had been otherwise. For God's sake, Jean, lie to me, anything but that!"
"I can't lie to you, Ted. I would have."

There was a long silence.
"When is it to be?" asked Jean finally.
"Soon—two or three months."
"What!" She stopped, amazed. "But then

-how can she do the things she's doing?" "Out every night, dancing until three or four in the morning. That's Kitty! She'll do what she takes it into her head to do. An inexplicable maternal instinct in Jean:

Ted, she must take care of herself "No one can make her do anything!"

HEY came again to the Seine and the THEY came again to the boat-landing, stood reluctantly.

far away the morning was now!

"I'd rather not," she said, questioning him with her eyes. "Can't we—is there a train?" taxi returning from a distant errand was rolling up a cloud of dust. He hailed it, opened the door. They got in, sat silently, sat staring, sat drawn apart. She began to cry silently, great tears roll-

ing down her cheeks.

Jean, dear, don't!"

"I can't help it. It's all so cruel. There's no meaning to it!"

'We don't get much of the breaks in life, we?" Ted remarked. do we?"

All at once, as she sat there, her shoulder touched his in the swaying motion of the She felt him turn suddenly, impending near her, put her hand to her throat, turned, and the next moment was in his arms.

He took her tenderly, drew her to him. Their lips met almost in a sigh, their cheeks wet with their mingled tears. He drew her closer, his arms tightening over her yielding body. Suddenly a great wave of passion swept down and blotted them together.

"Ted, Ted, it's no use. I can't help it!"

"I want you so!"

"I don't care-nothing matters. Kiss me." Her arms held him to her; her hands played over his cheek, in his hair, caress-ing, fiercely possessive. Her eyes opened on his shining above her, closed, opened, could

not close again.
"I love you so!"

Faint, dizzy, clinging to the hungry moment, on fire, deliciously hurt one moment
—her moment at last, withholding nothing, shaken by great tremendous waves that left her weak, trembling, avidly returning to his lips to deeper oblivion.

They were back in Paris, nearing home

before they realized it.

"Ted dear, what are we going to do?" He caught her a last time, his lips on her lips in the poignant agony of farewell, drew her unwilling arms from him, laid her back in a corner.

Jinny, get hold of yourself-you must!" She lay so still that he was frightened; he took her hands, gripped them, called her

She sat up, looked at him, and began to shiver.

"Don't. You make me feel like a brute!"

She grew quiet, looked at him, smiled.
"Don't spoil it, Ted. I'm glad."
He studied her face anxiously, apprehensive of the reaction which would come.

"Give me my purse, dear, and my vanitycase.

"Jinny, don't hold this against me." She looked into his eyes, a sudden glory in her look.

"Thank God for just the moment!" A week later came her letter. He had known it would come, dreaded it, opened it with a feeling of despair.

"Ted dear, I am going to marry the Prince de Sfax. I had to tell you myself, before it comes out in the papers. I wonder if you'll understand. I can't explain. Forgive me, dear!

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MARGERIE had swung galvanically up from among the green pillows. "No—

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DOUBLE HANDCUFFS

(Continued from page 55)

police, and we are helpless. The woman so victimized will never make an official complaint and tell what happened."

"Just so—the frightened woman's need of silence is the bandit's ace of trumps. Through whom did the proposition of Mrs. Winthrop's bandit reach her?" "Felix Templeton."

"Felix Templeton." Clifford whistled softly. "That lawyer is the man of all men to act as this bandit's agent—or the agent of such a big business as we believe to exist!"

"And how I'd like to land that slick criminal lawyer!" exclaimed General Thorne in a burst of professional exasperation. "There's no doubt of his secret criminal participation in many of the shady cases he's beaten in court with his infernal shrewdness. I've been after him for years, and so has the District Attorney's office. But he's too clever for us—he laughs at us—has even with mock courtesy offered to help us run down evidence against himself.

"His colossal confidence in his cleverness may some day prompt his daring to reach too far, and that will be your chance. Does Templeton's letter bring Mrs. Winthrop's situation up to the present?"

"Yes. There you have the case that Judge Foster and I want you to handle. Do you see any way out of this affair?"

"There's a very obvious way," was Clifford's prompt reply. "Mrs. Winthrop is primarily an intended victim of blackmail; the banditry was no more than a basis for the blackmail. The only safe and permanent and possibly happy solution to a blackmail case must be founded upon a frank admission of the alleged facts by the threatened side, and belief, or acceptance, or forgiveness, by the other side. Otherwise the victim lives in constant terror of exposure and probably has to pay again and again. All this is doubly true when dealing with such a past-master of legal scoundrelism as Templeton. Why should not our first move in this affair be to call in Mr. Winthrop and in the best possible way put Mrs. Winthrop's experience before him?"

MARGERIE had swung galvanically up from among the green pillows. "No—no—no!" she gasped wildly. "You mustn't tell Jeff. He's crazy against Harold Gates—he'll not forgive—he'll believe the very worst—it will end everything!"

"Theoretically you are right, Clifford," said Judge Foster, "but Margerie is right according to the hard facts represented by Jeff. As I have said, there is no one so furiously unforgiving, so fiercely reactionary, as some of these flag-wavers of the new freedom when their primitive emotions are first aroused. If Jeff Winthrop hears this story, he'll not accept any explanation or extenuation we might offer; he'll be the crazy, unappeasable, primitive husband demanding separation or divorce. Am I right about Jeff Winthrop, General Thorne?" "That's just how Jeff will react."

"It will be my job to defend Margerie if there is a suit for divorce," continued Judge Foster, "—and I ask you, Clifford, on the basis of Margerie's own story, where is the chance of a successful defense? Also it would be pointed out at a trial that Margerie's conduct at the Gray Goose was in exact accord with her flaming youth's creed of the ego's full right to act on the ego's urge—and that would be a mighty effective point. I'd be hopelessly up against it! And even this is not the whole of the situation. When Margerie's doctor examined her the other day after this collapse, he gave her the first news that she is going to have a baby."

"And I've wanted a baby so!" came in

sobs from the green pillows. "And it's Jeff's baby! Jeff's and mine! But if Jeff is told that story, he'll say—he'll say—"

"He'll deny paternity," Judge Foster completed for her. "He'll say Harold Gates is the father, and he's crazy enough to start another of these paternity suits that will be dragging its scandal through the courts for years. I tell you, Clifford, we've got to keep this thing from Jeff!"
"Then just what do you want me to do?"
"Act as Margerie's agent, her protecting friend, in dealing with Felix Templeton. Of

"Then just what do you want me to do?"
"Act as Margerie's agent, her protecting friend, in dealing with Felix Templeton. Of course I could pay Templeton the money demanded, but we want the silence we pay for, and I wouldn't know how to secure a guarantee of silence. You're more experienced in such matters and can handle the deal in a way to insure continued secrecy for Margerie."

"You mean," demanded Clifford, "that I am to make the catching of the bandit leader and the recovery of the jewels, without paying for them, entirely secondary objects?"

ing for them, entirely secondary objects?"
"Yes—and less than secondary. We don't want you even to think of such objects. The jewels we are willing to buy back, and the bandit leader we do not wish to catch—for the bandit, if caught, would make all this story public."

AT these words, so narrowly confining his activity, Clifford revolted sharply. "Judge Foster, such orders amount to handcuffs locked upon me! General Thorne, do you also agree to a bargain with crime which leaves criminals with guaranteed safety for themselves and all their loot, and leaves their victims insecure and their real problems still unsolved?"

"I don't like it any more than you do, Clifford; but I also am handcuffed. And in his way so is Judge Foster. Margerie will make no official complaint. She will give me no description of the bandit leader; she was so frightened, she says, that all she remembers of the bandits is that all three wore handkerchiefs for masks. Even if we caught the bandits, and she could identify them, she wouldn't do it."

"The saving of this marriage, if that is possible," continued Judge Foster, "the bringing of the wife and husband together, in happiness and understanding—that's your job, Clifford—just that and nothing else; and I hope you'll not refuse to do this for Mrs. Winthrop."

Clifford hesitated a moment. "If I try to do that," he responded, "I must very definitely reserve the right to do it in my own way." He did not add the other reservations that were already rising in his mind.

"In your own way, certainly." Judge Foster leaned over and fondly kissed Margerie's pale young face. "Clifford," he said, gently smoothing the face with his wrinkled hand, "we've got to look out for these flaming apostles of individual liberty until they've learned to be just a bit liberal toward each other—take care of these sun-soaring archangels, whose wings are melting, until they can land safely on their own feet. Some day Margerie, here, is going to be a fine, sane woman, Clifford—and I want you to see her safe through this dizzy fall back to mother earth."

"Please do, Mr. Clifford!" she begged feverishly, seizing his hand. "I suppose I've been as great a fool as Judge Foster says. But that night at the Gray Goose Innthough I can't deny anything—I had no thought of going up to that room—at least not while I was conscious. I never thought of Harold Gates in that way. Honest! Oh, if I ever get clear of this affair," she sobbed on, "I'm going to try to be a good mother to my baby—and a good wife to Jeff! That's what I want most of all to be!

Please save me, Mr. Clifford—and—and I think you'll be saving all of us!"

Agonized sincerity was in the voice and the streaming violet eyes. Clifford did not know how much of truth there was in Judge Foster's affectionate indictment of the extremists of modern youth; he did not consider himself competent to sit upon the jury that is forever trying the case of the new generation. And he could not know how guilty Margerie Winthrop had really been that night at the Gray Goose Inn. Only of this much was he certain: if repentance absolves from sin and makes one as new, then Margerie Winthrop was certainly reborn into a different woman and Clifford's heart went out to her.

"If my best can save you I'll save youand all of you," Clifford assured her, pressing the hand that feverishly clutched his.

BEFORE Clifford left Margerie Winthrop, his rebellious reservations were shaping into a definite purpose. He would go ahead with the plan of money-settlement as ordered, yes; but behind that surface plan there was also going to be working a second plan, as yet unformed, based on his own ideas of untangling the affairs of the Winthrops. That unformed plan demanded that the bandit chief should not triumph and retain his liberty—that Mrs. Winthrop should not pay a fortune for her own jewels—that the Winthrops should be reunited upon a basis of frankness and understanding, with no feared skeletons to be dragged from closets and destroy their future.

Clifford recognized that even had he not been manacled by Judge Foster's handcuffs, here was another of those situations which the usual detective methods could not hope to solve and bring to a happy ending. There was crime here, to be sure; but the problem confronting him was basically a problem in complex and contradictory human natures, a mystery of changing personalities who had no understanding of the springs of their own being. Therefore the only method that contained hope was a study of the characters involved in the situation: Margerie Winthrop, Jeff Winthrop, Harold Gates, Arline Sinclair, Felix Templeton—possibly even the unknown bandit leader.

This study of his further characters began the very moment Clifford stepped out of the Winthrop residence into Park Avenue, when a slender young man who had been pacing the sidewalk halted aggressively before him and blocked his way.

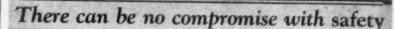
"I know who you are—a damned detective!" he savagely exploded point-blank at Clifford. "What the hell business has a detective got in my house?"

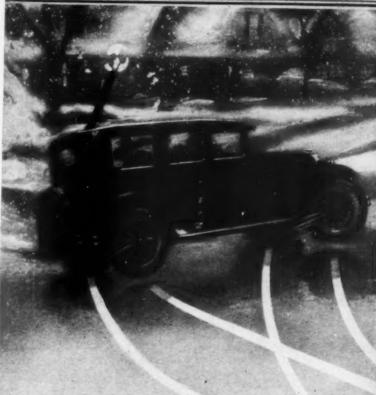
"Jeff, Jeff, control yourself," urged General Thorne, and Judge Foster laid an appeasing hand on the young man's arm.

"I'm controlling myself all right, for I know exactly what I'm doing! Mr. Detective, is it some scandal about my wife that brings you here?"

"Jefferson!" cried Judge Foster in stern rebuke. "If you must be angry at some one, don't pick on a stranger; be angry at your two best friends, General Thorne and myself. We brought Mr. Clifford to visit Margerie to see if he could not make some practical suggestion that would bring you two mad young fools together."

"A detective as a marriage-mender—I don't believe it!" he retorted furiously. "I had word that all three of you were with Margerie, and I've been waiting for you to come out to say my say to all of you. Listen, Judge Foster, General Thorne—and you too, Mr. Detective, since you're butting into my affairs: I've heard rumors that Margerie and Harold Gates have been a lot too much together. If there has been any such intimacy as has been hinted at, then instead of Mr. Clifford bringing Margerie





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and me together, we're going to be a damned sight farther apart! That's final! Goodby!"

He turned abruptly and strode away down Park Avenue.

"That's Templeton's work," surmised Clifford. "He's having Mrs. Winthrop watched, and he certainly picked the most effective messenger to deliver a prompt reminder of how delicately balanced is Mrs. Winthrop's danger."

"Undoubtedly a touch of Templeton's genius," agreed Judge Foster. "From this specimen of Jeff's behavior you could never imagine what a simple, generous and lovable fellow he really is. There walks your big danger and big problem, Clifford—Jefferson Winthrop."

Clifford nodded, and speculatively watched the angrily striding figure that his plans must regard as erratic human dynamite. After parting from his two old friends, he began seriously to ponder that problem which was never to be absent from his mind during the days to come: By what means could such an extravagant egoist with such a violent temper be so subdued that it would be possible for him to understand and forgive?

FROM the Winthrop home Clifford made for the office of Felix Templeton, first choice of politicians in trouble, of big criminals who could pay big fees, of chorus-girl wives seeking the best financial settlement from millionaire husbands. His office was high up in a Times Square skyscraper, very appropriately looking down upon his domain of theaters and night-clubs that supplied him a princely revenue which flowed to him through his knowledge of how to levy tax on human folly. He and Clifford had often met along Broadway.

"Glad to see you, Clifford," Templeton greeted him with easy welcome that had an undertone of challenging mockery. Clifford had an instant sense that, though young Winthrop might be his greatest problem, his greatest clash was to be with the smiling lawyer before him—a commandingly tall, carefully tailored man of fifty who looked a very young forty, with black penerating eyes that gazed audaciously from a lean, darkly handsome face. "Sit down. I was just a bit surprised, Clifford, when Mrs. Winthrop telephoned me a little while ago that you were to handle negotiations for her. A bit out of a detective's line, isn't far."

her. A bit out or ...
it?"
"Undoubtedly—since I'm not supposed to detect anything, but just arrange a settlement."

"If Mrs. Winthrop wanted a detective for such a purpose, I'll say she couldn't do better than the famous Robert Clifford. With what point shall we open our proceedings?"

Clifford sought to give the impression of having no purpose here beyond carrying out Judge Foster's orders. But his greater purpose was the further study of this important character, his hope that Templeton might make some betraying slip about the bandit leader. So every instant he watched the other.

"Suppose, Templeton," he replied, "that we open our proceedings with a discussion of terms. The price you ask seems excessively high for a woman to pay for her own jewels—almost three times their actual value. Surely you'll give us a more reasonable figure?"

"I admit Clifford that the price correct."

"I admit, Clifford, that the price seems outrageously high. But unfortunately I am not the principal in this affair. I am only the agent of my client, and as such I am merely communicating my client's lowest terms. His reasoning seems to be that he believes he is selling Mrs. Winthrop not only jewels but also a certain other commodity of far higher value to her."



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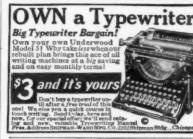
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Templeton raised a right hand as if to cut off an interruption; a curious right hand it was, with a jagged welt of a red scar across the palm and a twisted little finger—said to be the record of a fee he had received out of a pistol barrel in one case he had tried out of court.

'Understand me, Clifford," he continued soberly, "I thoroughly disapprove of my client and all his conduct in this affair. But my clients are of every sort, as you know, and my censure will not alter their natures for the better—and in this case would not change the man's demands one jot. Besides, I feel I am also acting in Mrs. Wistheavel, interest trains to secure her the Winthrop's interest, trying to secure her the quiet settlement she must surely want."

Clifford knew the man was lying, that behind this air of sober concern was a taunt-ing laugh; and he knew that the actor in Templeton hoped that he knew this for

"I appreciate your benevolent spirit, Templeton," Clifford responded dryly. "If Mrs. Winthrop pays, what guarantee can you give that she will get this article of higher value she is paying for—silence?"

"My dear Clifford, I have quietly settled more scandals out of court, kept more skeletons decently locked up in family closets, than any other lawyer in New York City. When I settle such a case, it stays settled. My record in such matters is Mrs. Winthop's best guarantee."

"We are mainly concerned with your cli-ent, the bandit leader. He controls the situation, and his is the guarantee we want. In view of the large amount to be paid, and the great issue at stake, I feel that we are justified in asking for some binding per-sonal guarantee from him."

nal guarantee from film.
"You mean you'd like to meet him—
"Templehave some counter-hold on him?" Temple-ton smiled sardonically. "Nothing doing, Clifford. I'm the nearest you can get to this man, and you must accept my personal guarantee. I have my own ways of exertwill do exactly as I order."

"Your personal guarantee also covers the silence of the other bandits?"

"Most certainly."

"Also the silence of Harold Gates?"

"I have nothing to do with Gates. He was Mrs. Winthrop's companion; he is her very old friend; he is a gentleman—these facts should guarantee his silence."

"Then to sum up your position, Temple-ton-we must pay over the money, and in return can have from you as a safeguard nothing beyond your personal word?"
"Exactly, Clifford. Nothing but my

word.

"You and I may have to take up this subject of guarantee again; certainly the guarantee must come up at the time of settlement, if there is a settlement. Just to cover every angle of the case, Templeton, what happens if Mrs. Winthrop decides, be-cause your personal word is insufficient or for some other reason, that she is not justi-

fied in making the demanded payment?"
"In that event, Clifford, my client disposes of Mrs. Winthrop's jewels as best he can, and all the details of the scene at the Gray Goose Inn he passes on to Mrs. Winthrop's Jewels and Jewels a throp's husband. In fact, I am obligated to my client to present this information myself in convincing fashion to Mr. Winthrop, and since I believe in being prepared for war, I have a very adequate letter to him all ready to fire in case you decide to fight. You know Mr. Winthrop?"

"I've just barely met him."

TEMPLETON again smiled his half-lidded smile of cynical mastery. "I know him very well," he drawled softly, "or at least as well as you can know a man from meeting him around the night-clubs. If you have heard him theorize upon his variety of the



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new freedom, I advise you not to accept his liberal words as a forecast that he will be liberal-minded in his attitude in this little affair. If he gets my letter, Jefferson Winthrop is going to make a noise like a very old-fashioned husband, and following it will be an explosion that will blow his whole world apart."

Templeton might have been lying in other matters, but as Clifford knew only too well, he most certainly was not lying in his pre-diction of Jeff Winthrop's probable reaction.

'To avoid such an explosion-that's why we're paying you a quarter of a million." Clifford had decided that, whatever might develop from his hidden plan, this hidden plan as well as his surface plan required that the money should actually be paid over. "A quarter of a million, Templeton, is a very large sum to raise in cash, and even so rich a woman as Mrs. Winthrop must have time for banking arrangements. She will need at least five days."

Mrs. Winthrop did not need a day. This was an invention on Clifford's part to gain time for his secret measures

"My client will be reasonable and give the requested five days."

"Then here's another detail, Templeton.
At the time of payment Mrs. Winthrop must identify the jewels. This affair has so prostrated her that her doctor will not allow her to leave her bed, so we must necessarily request that the settlement take place at the Winthrop home. Naturally you may bring with you whatever guard you desire to protect the jewels."

To this request also Templeton acceded.

Clifford stood up.

"Then I believe this is all for the present, Templeton—perhaps all until you hear from me that we are ready for you with the

"Not quite all, Clifford." The mockery in Templeton's brilliant eyes changed swiftly into grim menace. "A few words of warn-ing. You are a very clever detective, and admire your cleverness-when it is exercised on other people. But try any of your clever detective tricks in this case, try to locate and identify my client, try anything but the settlement of this affair along the lines set down-and I instantly put my letter in the hands of the husband. I'm going to have you watched by my own detectives, Clifford, and at your first suspicious move, I act. I've promised my client to protect his interests and safety in every way, and I'm going to do so. So watch your step, Clifford, and keep in the very middle of the road!"

"I'll watch my step most carefully, Templeton," he said quietly, and with no touch in his voice of the double meaning which was actually in his words; and very quietly he went out.

CLIFFORD left Templeton's office fum-ing, with the exasperated sense that the lawyer's insolent warning had snapped on him a second pair of handcuffs. "I'm double handcuffed!" he exclaimed to Gen-LIFFORD left Templeton's office fumeral Thorne later, when telling of this scene. But the immediate effect of Templeton's warning and his attitude of challenging, mocking mastery was to rouse all of Clifford's fighting spirit.

He now made for the office of Harold Gates, next in his case of characters to be studied. From the very first he had con-ceived of Gates as the actor who might somehow represent the element of hope in the secret drama he intended shaping. while listening to the story of Mrs. Winthrop's guilty misadventure with Gates, Clifford had privately decided that he was going to test out the theory that Mrs. Winthrop might be innocent. If she was guiltless, the victim of a trick, then the logic of the situation demanded that Gates be also a victim of the trick or else a party to it. The latter seemed more probable, and Clifford was tentatively casting Gates for a villain's or subvillain's or near-villain's rôle before he even was admitted to Gates' office and for

While Clifford briefly outlined the cul-minating phase of the Gray Goose affair, he swiftly scrutinized Gates, trying to read his essential quality. Harold Gates was perhaps thirty, was flawlessly dressed in a conservative smartness, had a white patrician face and a slender, lithe body whose admirable balance of dignity and grace explained his reputation as the most desirable dancing-partner a woman could have on excursions to the night-clubs. It was at once apparent why he was a popular club-man, well-liked sportsman, and sought-after bachelor by every ambitious hostess who would make her affairs a success. He was the broken son of a broker who had lost almost his all just before his death, and the young man's chief inheritance was reported to be his father's ill-luck in speculation.

Judge Foster had told Clifford that Gates had been in very rough financial water.

Ordinarily Gates was a man of poise and self-control, and he tried to maintain this poise while listening to Clifford. The detective had quickly decided that here was a case that might respond to bullying; he would harry and insult the other, handle him with all possible roughness, to see if he could not disturb that poise and learn what

might be behind it.

"Now, listen, Gates-I'm going to talk raight-from-the-shoulder business with straight-from-the-shoulder business with you!" Clifford exploded without warning, boring accusingly into the broker. "You're in this mess just as deep as Mrs. Winthrop-deeper, since you led her into it; and any man with one drop of chivalry in his system would lift all responsibility from the lady and do his damnedest to clear up the mess. My first business with you, Gates, is to tell you, as the second party concerned, that I have advised Mrs. Winthrop that the best method of settlement is to tell Templeton to go to hell and not give him one dime to hush up his bandit client. That puts it all up to you; now, what are you going to do to save the lady?"

ATES' marked whiteness became more GATES' marked whiteness became more white; his poise seemed to be cracking like a glaze. "But—but refusing that demand," he stammered huskily, "that's just inviting catastrophe for Mrs. Winthrop! There'll be scandal—and—and her husband will demand a divorce!"

"Naming you as co-respondent!" Clifford wagely shot back at him. "That's what savagely shot back at him. you probably see as the real catastrophe!
Of course, if there is a divorce-suit, the yellow papers will play up the woman, and of course she will get the official blame rendered by the court's verdict; but all decent persons are in their hearts going to place the real blame on Harold Gates of the fine manners and the fine old name, and are going to think of him as playing very much the part of a dirty yellow dog! A bachelor who leads a very young wife, his friend since she was a child, into a situation where she has to face the music alone on the same as the same of the control of the contr

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"And get this, Gates," Clifford drove on at him: "I'm going to do my damnedest from now on to strip all the gallant airs from you and show you up before the pubfrom you and show you up before the public as a yellow dog. I'm out to protect Mrs. Winthrop, to lighten the blame for her as much as I can—and the surest way to divert blame from her is to direct blame upon you, where the blame belongs. I'm going to turn the popular and respected

Harold Gates into the most despicable man that ever appeared as co-respondent in a New York divorce trial!"

These blows also visibly went home, but Gates ventured no protest against Clifford's

"All the same," he got out with diffi-lty, "I think it would be much better if

culty, "I think it would be much better."

—if the bandit were paid what he asks."

"All right, we'll talk payment, then,"

"That's my second business with you, Gates. As a matter of fact, against my advice, Mrs. Winthrop favors paying the bandit. I'm out right now on the business of arranging out right now on the business of arranging for the money. I think you should pay the quarter-million yourself, since you got the lady in the trouble; but Mrs. Winthrop wont hear of this. So we'll compromise; you certainly can do no less than come across with one-half of the bandit's price of silence. I'm here to get your check for a hundred and twenty-five thousand, Gates, and I want that check certified."

"What!" gasped the young broker, taken et further aback at this abrupt demand. "Why-why, I haven't a fraction of that much money in all the world!"

"Come across, damn you! everything upon the woman!" Don't shift

"I tell you I haven't got the money!"
"You damned piker! You're not only a cad, and a scoundrel, and a yellow cur-but also a cheap piker who wont even go fifty-fifty with a woman in the cost of his love adventure! I wish I could show you up before all the world as I shall certainly show you up before Mrs. Winthrop and your friends General Thorne and Judge Foster!

"I haven't got the money," the other repeated in a husky whisper.

DEEP into him Clifford glared for a long moment. Then on his face there slowly dawned understanding.
"So that's it, Gates!" he

"Great God-that explains everything! a dumb-bell I was not to see it all before!"
"See what? What are you talking about?"

"Very pretty, Gates—very pretty!" rd drawled scathingly. "Judge Foster told me you were devilishly hard up. man who has done what you have already done, and who has the attitude toward a woman you've just now shown, has proved he'll stoop to any measure. You were in he'll stoop to any measure. desperate financial straits, and it must have seemed to you a very clever and safe and swift device, Gates, by which to mend your broken fortunes. Just how much wages did you pay your three hired bandits, and how much are you paying Templeton as his collection fee?"

Gates came galvanically to his feet. "You suggest that I—that I—" He almost

strangled on his words.
"Of course. You needed the money; ou're the one man who could have staged all this-every detail fits in perfectly. And with that easy quarter of a million-"It's a lie!" exploded Gates. "It's

damned preposterous lie!"

"If you're not the hidden man yourself, then you know who the man is. clean, Gates!"

"You don't get a thing out of me—not a thing!" Gates panted fiercely, rigidly on his guard. "I don't know a thing—not a -and you might as well stop trying to third-degree me!"

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The two men stood with embattled Whatever Gates might know and be glares. hiding, Clifford recognized that at this time he possessed no power by which any word could be forced from Gates' lips. So, since it could serve him no further, Clifford

dropped his hectoring manner.

"All right, Gates. Though don't be surprised if some day I arrest you. You are leaving everything up to Mrs. Winthrop,

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DOCTORS ENDORSE IT



and it seems her only course is to pay the bandit's full amount. But I'm hoping you are not so devoted to the dodging of all responsibility that you'll not at least call on Mrs. Winthrop if she should want to see you in regard to any detail of this busi-

"If Mrs. Winthrop sends word, I'll come,"

was the stiff response.

As Clifford left Gates, he weighed the results of this interview. He was now convinced of the correctness of his original deduction that Gates was no mere fellowsufferer with Mrs. Winthrop. Was Gates indeed the villain, the bandit-chief-rather, the man behind the figurehead leader? Was he subvillain or near-villain? Or was he victim-villain? He was one of these—cer-tainly a man who had so quailed under fire had no innocent conscience; but which of these he was, only the future could dis-

LAST on Clifford's list of characters was Arline Sinclair, and at a quarter past eleven that evening Clifford was sitting at his ease in the dressing-room of that gay musical-comedy star. She was not yet thirty and looked a wise and ageless twenty; she was now suing her third husband for divorce; she had been the "other woman" in more than one sensational divorce suit.
"One of our most active and popular corespondents," a friendly dramatic critic had
once dared say of her. Clifford, who liked her very much, had found her frank and generous, and had not concerned himself with her opinions upon the subject of husbands, whether her own or those of other women.

"Arline," he remarked, "I'm told you've been playing around pretty regularly with Jefferson Winthrop. He's part of my present job. If you don't mind, I wish you'd give me the low-down on what's doing between you two."

"Nothing for you to be jealous about, Bob. We're mighty good friends; that's all —dance a lot together, but it's all just boyand-girl stuff."

"Just what do you make of Winthrop,

"I like him a lot!" was her prompt-reply.
"Just now he's filled with crazy ideas, but
some day he's going to be as fine as they
come. I wish I could do something that would help that boy find himself!"

"That's exactly what I came here to ask you to do. How far would you be willing to go?"
"The limit!"

"Even if what I asked you to do might result in your putting yourself in wrong with him?"

"Sure! See here, Bob," she accused suspiciously, "that sounds as if you were up to tricks."

Perhaps I am."

"What's doing?" she demanded. "Where do I come in?"

"I'm not wholly certain myself," he con-ssed. "But I have the beginning of an idea, and I'll lay the whole idea before you in a day or so, after it has developed, if it does develop. I'm told, Arline, that you also used to play around a lot with Harold

HARVEY FERGUSSON

The famous author of "Hot Saturday," "Captive Hill" and other novels has written the greatest story of his brilliant career for this magazine. It will be published in an early issue.

"I still do. See him every day or so." "What do you think of him?

This last year "I've always liked him. he's had something troubling him bad; it may be money, and it may be something worse. I hoped it might make some difference when that girl fell for him."

"Girl!" Clifford cried sharply. "What girl?" "That was a bad slip; he asked me not to tell. It's mighty little I know about her, only what he's said; according to his ravings, she's a dear, simple, trusting young thing from the innocent provinces and for his own reasons he's wanted to keep the af-fair under cover. Tremendously in love, Harold is, or I'm no judge."

WHEN Clifford left Arline, his mind was all upon this unknown girl. She was an entirely unexpected element,might be a valuable element,—and he wanted definite information concerning her. But he had reached the very limit of the activities he dared undertake in his own person or through his own office. Still, he could act through others. The next morn-ing he told his good friend Detective Sergeant Jimmy Kelly of this girl and asked that Gates be shadowed. Within a dozen hours Jimmy Kelly was back with his re-

He had followed Gates, located the girl and talked with a switchboard operator. The girl was living very unobtrusively in a little apartment far uptown as "Mrs. Har-old;" Gates was "Mr. Harold" and was home only for occasional and very brief stavs.

Jimmy had called on the girl, had talked with her and tripped her into telling the truth. She was really Mrs. Harold Gates, for there had been a real marriage only two or three weeks before. And you could take Jimmy's word for it-Mrs. Gates was as nice as your mother was when your mother was a girl!

Clifford now had all the clues to his characters that his manacled circumstances would let him hope to get. So he closeted his handcuffed body, and for the next three days he let his unhandcuffed mind trail his every clue down to its every possible mean-ing. With the help of his character-clues he studied his characters in all their possible hidden relations to each other—and gradually, out of the medley, bit by bit, there was reconstructed in his mind a plausible and coherent outline of what might be the true story concealed behind this story of woman's folly, jewel-banditry and blackmail.

But this story was only a theory; and if true, how force it out of its hiding-place behind the accepted story? He reviewed and weighed his characters' various weaknesses—their possible reactions to various stimuli, the various ways he might set character against character: and pres-ently he sifted out the chaff and combined the best of his winnowing into the plan for a human situation which, if his characters reacted according to his appraisal of them, he believed would force the truth out into the open, would clear away all mystery and suspicion and misunderstanding.

AT the hour appointed for the settle-ment, Clifford, Judge Foster, General Thorne and Harold Gates sat in Mrs. Winthrop's bedroom waiting Templeton's arrival. From her high-heaped apple-green pillows the pallid Margerie Winthrop gazed in feverish suspense from one to another of these four actors in the coming last scene of her domestic drama. On Judge Foster's person was the required quarter of a million, and all else was in readiness for the specified business of the afternoon.

This specified business was causing Clifford no concern. But beneath his reassuring manner of grave confidence was palpitant wonderment as to how his plan beneath this appointed plan was going to work out. It now seemed that never before had he had a case in which he had been compelled to work within such severe limitations and with so little material that he knew to be substantial. Not since his first hour in this bedroom had he so sharply felt the handicap of his handcuffs.

Promptly at two o'clock Templeton was admitted, debonair, confident, cynically mas-terful, although his right arm was in a sling and was evidently giving him pain. Behind him were three powerful men who were obviously from a detective agency.

Clifford, what's the idea of the crowd?" he demanded sharply at sight of the three other men. "You said nothing about this being a convention—and a convention head-ed by the Commissioner of Police!"

"General Thorne is not here in the ca-pacity of Commissioner of Police," Clifpacity of Commissioner of Police," Chir-ford explained. "He is very properly here in loco parentis to Mrs. Winthrop—you yourself know that he was formerly her guardian. Judge Foster is here as her at-torney and her financial agent." Both are fully acquainted with the situation. Mr. Gates, at Mrs. Winthrop's request, is here as the other victim of the misadventure. You may let your three guards remain and so make the delegation four to four—that if you wish these men to know the secrets of your private business. I can as-sure you, however, that no violence will be attempted upon your person, or upon the value you brought or upon the value you

Templeton hesitated a moment. for me out in front in the street; I'll be with you in a couple of minutes," he or-dered. When the door had closed upon the guards, he advanced toward the other men who stood around a table which had been placed near the foot of Margerie Win-throp's bed. "Shall we proceed to busi-ness?" he demanded crisply. "You have

"Exactly as promised," replied Clifford.
"Let Mrs. Winthrop identify her jewels, and you then get your client's money."
"First let me see the money," countered

Templeton.

"Show him the money," said Clifford to Judge Foster, and the latter produced from various pockets three packages of new thousand-dollar bills. "Count the notes before him, Judge—and you, Mr. Templeton, watch him and verify the count."

"Two hundred and fifty thousandrect," said Templeton when Judge Foster had added the last crisp bill to the stack

of bank-notes upon the table.

"And now, Templeton," continued Clifford, "let Mrs. Winthrop identify the jewels and make sure none is missing. That

done, the money on the table is yours."

Clumsily Templeton's left hand reached for an inner pocket. "A little accident," he explained casually, with a nod at the right arm in a sling. "A dead starter—an attempt to crank the car-and the customary broken wrist."

He drew out a large purse of plain black leather, and this he held out to Mrs. Win-throp. "That's just as your jewels were turned over to me."

MARGERIE WINTHROP clutched at the purse and frantically unfastened its clasp. From its wide mouth pearls, diamonds and emeralds cascaded upon the cov-

"Oh!" she gasped. "Oh!" And feverishly "Oh!" she gasped. "Oh!" And feverishly she made an inventory. "They're all here!" she cried. "They're all here! Oh, thank God—it's all over—it's all over!" She caught the jewels up in her two hands, and buried her face among them, choking and sobbing in the wild hysteria of her ended suppresse. ended suspense.



ur national propensity to Colds

This common trouble can be traced. quite often, to the susceptibility induced by Auto-Intoxication.

F all diseases to which flesh is heir, colds are the most costly in lost time and in impaired health. And yet taken care of in time, a cold is not a trouble difficult to defeat.

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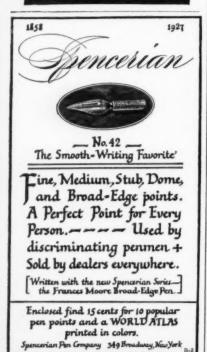
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"You may now take your money, Tem-eton," said Clifford.

pleton," said Clifford.
With his awkward left hand Templeton carefully stuffed the quarter of a million dollars about his person, then bowed to Mrs. Winthrop and gave the four men a smile edged with caustic triumph. "Since our business is completed, I wish you all a very good afternoon."

'Just a moment, Templeton," Clifford checked him.

He had now come to his plan beneath the plan. He had to be an actor at the first, and he hoped he was going to act well the part he had conceived for himself.

"You will recall, Templeton, that in our conversation I stressed the point of a proper guarantee of silence. Your personal guarantee was all you offered, and I alone have heard it. Since Mrs. Winthrop is paying so much for this guarantee of silence, Since Mrs. Winthrop is paying think she should hear your guarantee and

hear it in the presence of witnesses."
"Certainly. I guarantee the permanent silence of the bandit leader and his asso-ciates."

"But even if you control them, there remains another source of danger-Harold Gates!" Clifford whirled on the young man and sank a gripping hand into his shoulder. "How about you, Gates?" he demanded harshly. "What guarantee do we have of harshly. your silence?

"Why—why—" stammered Gates, "you should know I'd be the last man to make public a scandal in which I had involved

"That does not mean you might not privately try to bleed the woman again!" Clifford savagely struck back at him, trying to rush the other off his balance with the speed and violence of his attack. "I was beginning to get your number the other was beginning to get your number the other day, Gates—and now I've fully got it! General Thorne, Judge Foster, Mrs. Winthrop—this dear friend of yours, Gates, was behind that plot at the Gray Goose Inn! For that affair was a plot. That bandit leader was Gates' hireling; the bandit turned his loot over to Gates—and Gates of the winter was the contract of the contra is the unknown man that Templeton is representing!'

"That's—that's a lie!" gasped Gates, "I told you the other day it was all a lie!" "Clifford," fiercely snapped out Templeton, "I've warned you what would happen if you tried to pry into the identity of the bandit! You go too far-and I can still tell the husband!"

"Please stop, Mr. Clifford!" frantically cried Margerie Winthrop. "I have my jewels-I'm satisfied just as things are!"

"I've got to protect your future security, Mrs. Winthrop," retorted Clifford, "and Gates, here, is your great danger! —General Thorne, Judge Foster," he savagely drove on, "don't you see that this affair has been altogether too perfect and too smooth-working not to have been carefully planned in advance? That Gates, hard up and knowing how things stood between Mr. and Mrs. Winthrop, lured the unsuspecting Mrs. Winthrop into this compromising situation for the benefit of his pocketbook? Bandit, blackmailer, blackguard that he is!" "You can't call me—" hoarsely began

Gates

"Clifford, by God, Jeff Winthrop-" began Templeton.

"Shut up, both of you!" thundered Clif-rd. "I don't trust this blackguard of a Gates even after he's been paid his quarter of a million. Mrs. Winthrop, General, Judge, that's what this man is that you've liked and trusted—a dirty blackguard—and a scoundrel as slimy as he is will bleed this woman he tricked as often as he can! We're going to be guaranteed the protection against this scoundrel that we've paid for, and we're going to get our guarantee right

LIFFORD swiftly crossed and opened the sitting-room door. "Will you please come in

There entered a young woman of hardly more than twenty, with a flowerlike, trust-ing face. Her wide blue eyes went straight to Gates in bewildered adoration.

"Dollie!" exclaimed Gates in amazement.
"Here I am, Harold," she said. "But I
don't know why you sent for me to come

"I never sent for you!" he cried. "It was I who sent for you, using Har-old Gates' name," explained Clifford. "Mrs. Winthrop, General Thorne, Judge Foster, since Mr. Gates seems not quite himself, it

falls on me to perform his duty. Permit me to present Mrs. Harold Gates, his secret bride of some three weeks." "Harold—you never told me you were

married!" exclaimed Mrs. Winthrop.
"I was waiting until this matter was cleared up before announcing it," Gates re-

plied huskily.

"A very pretty affair for a brand-new husband to be involved in!" Clifford re-marked with cutting irony. "Mrs. Gates, I sent for you because there is a story here that should deeply interest a new wife."

"I've already confessed my part in this story to her," Gates put in quickly, "and she's forgiven me."

"I guess that stops your little plan, Clif-ford, whatever it was!" exclaimed Templeton.

"I imagined you had already confessed to this story, Gates—on advice of Temple-ton, your counsel," retorted Clifford. "So the story that I thought might interest your wife is an altogether different story.

He turned to the sitting-room door, which had remained open. "V please come in, Arline," he called. "Will you

Arline Sinclair came in smiling and bowing as though making her stage entrance before a friendly audience. "Good after-noon, everybody," the little comédienne chirped breezily. "So, little girl, you're married to Harold Gates? Congratulations! Harold, if you had only told me you were married, the thing would never have hap-What's the matter, Tempy? pened. look as if you were sick abed with a hang-

nail. Please may I sit down?"
"What the hell are you butting in here for, Arline?" fiercely asked Templeton.

THE little actress took her time in piac-ing herself effectively in the big chair Clifford set forth for her. "Ask Mr. Clif-HE little actress took her time in placford, Tempy. I'm here because he ordered me to come, and I'm not going to incrim-inate myself by answering any questions I don't have to answer."

"Clifford, what has Arline Sinclair to do with our business?"

"Suppose, Templeton, we all ask Gates that question," suggested Clifford.

All eyes turned waitingly upon the sorecent bridgeroom, who made no attempt to answer the question thus referred to him. He had gone a ghastly white, and his star-ing eyes were shifting wildly from Arline Sinclair to his wife.

"I think I better tell you, Harold," spoke up the little comédienne, "that Mr. Clifford was the man who broke in and that he knows everything."

His acknowledgment of this was to give

her a shrinking look of sick aversion.
"Since Mr. Gates seems so indisposed, perhaps after all I'd better answer his question for him," put in Clifford. "Mr. Gates, shall I speak in the presence of Mrs. Gates,

or would you prefer that she withdraw?"
"Have you—have you told her anything?" asked Gates.

"As yet not a thing."

"Dollie," breathed the dry-lipped husband, "won't you please wait outside? I'll—I'll join you in just a few minutes."

"But Harold-what is all this?"

"It may be nothing to trouble you, Mrs. Gates," said Clifford. "If it is a matter of real concern, I'll call you. But for the present it will be better for both you and your husband if you wait in the next

She gave her husband a frightened, searching glance, then slipped silently out and closed the door. Clifford wheeled instantly upon the husband.

"Here is the whole lay-out, Gates," he began mercilessly. "I was engaged by Miss "Here is the whole lay-out, Gates," he began mercilessly. "I was engaged by Miss Sinclair's husband to get evidence for a divorce. He suspected you. I certainly got the evidence, and the evidence does not consist merely of the testimony of the eyewitnesses to what they saw. I have an additional witness. Remember the explosion and flare which so startled you?"

Gates made no answer, but it was plain

Gates made no answer, but it was plain

that he remembered.

"That was the flashlight of my hidden camera. Here is my photographic witness.'

FROM a pocket Clifford drew an un-mounted photograph, which he unfolded and held aloft so that all might see but none might desperately snatch. In all its intimate and damning essentials it was the duplicate of the scene at the Gray Goose Inn, with the exception that in the photograph the woman in guilty disarray and dismay was that popular co-respondent Arline Sinclair.

"Harold Gates!" breathed Margerie Winthrop, staring in horror at the partner of her own misadventure. "Twice—and you married only three weeks!"

"It does look rather bad for you, Har-old," confessed Arline Sinclair. And then to Clifford, with a graceful, defiant shrug: "I guess you've got me—but I should worry over being co-respondent in one more divorce-suit. It means acres of publicity, and I can sure use the publicity in my busi-

"But I didn't know—I didn't intend—"
Gates began wildly, but was cut off by
Clifford. All of Clifford's previous fury was
mildness compared to his scathing fury of the present moment; his words landed on

Gates like fists hammering his face.
"You didn't intend—the plea of every man who's caught! All you people here who considered him a friend, look at him now for what he really is—bandit, blackmailer, traitor to a woman friend—Don Juan, Casanova, the devil's own libertine, unable to be faithful to his new wife for a day, hardly!" Beneath the impact of these word-blows Gates staggered back into a chair, but Clifford followed him up and mercilessly thrust the photograph into his face and shook it. "Your wife may have accepted your explanation of your escapade with Mrs. Winthrop," he shouted, "but you can make up no explanation which will

bring her to forgive you this second of-fense of the same kind!"

"See here, Clifford," Templeton put in, "I ask you again what does all this business have to do with Mrs. Winthrop's affair?"

"I've already answered that, Templeton. I must guarantee Mrs. Winthrop security from future demands of the bandit chief. Gates is that chief. If I get him to confess before these witnesses that he is the real leader, then I've tied him up, and Mrs. Winthrop is forever safe from him." Winthrop is forever safe from him."

Again Clifford shelled the prostrate young
husband with blasting words. "And by
heaven, Gates, if you do not confess that
you are the chief, and confess at once, I'll

you are the chief, and confess at once, I'll call in your wife and give her this picture and the whole story that goes with it!"
"No! No! No!" burst explosively from Gates. The tortured young man swayed to his feet, his white face twisted with agony. "I can't stand all that—I can't stand it!" he panted. "If—if I confess, Mr.

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Clifford—can you keep this second story— I swear I didn't intend getting into that I remember so little about it that I must have been drunk—can you keep the second story from my wife?"

"Tell all the truth, Gates, and I guarantee that no hurt will come to you because of this story from your wife, or Arline Sinclair's husband, or anyone else.'

'Then I'll confess-

"Shut up, Gates!" Templeton shouted. "Templeton, I'm not going to bear this "Templeton, I'm not going to bear this thing any longer—all this is worse than anything you can do to me! Mr. Clifford—Margerie—" He faced the girl in the bed, who was now sitting stark upright, staring eyes fixed on him. "Margerie," he gulped hoarsely, in agonized shame, "I've been the—the scoundrel to you Mr. Clifford has said. Only not the way you all think. Margerie, nothing really happened that night at the Gray Goose—nothing on your part that you don't remember. Understand?" part that you don't remember. Understand?"

"I tell you to shut up, Gates," thundered Templeton, lunging at the other, "or—" Clifford caught the lawyer's left wrist and held him back by a twisting grip. "You keep still, Templeton—Gates is going to

finish his confession.'

"Say any more, Gates, and you know what's coming to you!" cried Templeton.
"I—I don't understand, Harold," re plied the dazed Margerie Winthrop. "What

-what do you mean?"

NOW that Gates had begun to confess, his confession came with a panting rush. "It was all a plot, Margerie-everything was planned carefully in advance, as Mr. Clifford said. Only I was not the leader who planned it—I was just acting on or-ders, orders I was afraid not to obey. Just before we left the Purple Peacock, I put something in your drink that had been given me for that purpose—I don't know what it was except that it was some kind of knockout drops whose effect wore off in two or three hours. You were doped, Margerie. I half-carried you to that room at the Gray Goose, where everything had been made ready. We all waited until you had recovered enough to be conscious, and then the bandits broke in. The idea was to make you appear guilty and make you think yourself guilty-but I swear, Margerie, you were not guilty of a thing beyond riding out

were not guilty of a thing beyond riding out to the Gray Goose for an hour of dancing!"

"Harold, Harold!" breathed Margerie Winthrop in awed amazement. And then in sobbing relief: "Thank God—thank God! Oh, Jeff, if you only knew the truth!"

"Well, go on, Gates," Clifford ordered.

"There's a lot more to tell if you want me to be easy with you. Who gave you your

'Templeton."

"That's a lie!" Templeton choked out. "Templeton has a way of finding out things about people and then making them do as he orders," the suffering Gates panted on. "About me he learned—oh, it doesn't matter now exactly what it was, except that

LEO CRANE

For almost twenty years Leo Crane has been resident agent among the Navajo and Hopi Indians, and a year ago he published a book on these bronzed friends of the Painted Desert that has been accepted as an authoritative work. And now he's set himself to translating his experiences and adventures into fiction. The first of the stories will appear in an early issue.

I made a bad slip about money, and I was guilty, and ever since I've had to take his orders, or be exposed and go to prison." "Keep right on with it!" urged the in-exorable Clifford. "If Templeton has had

you trapped, he's used you more than

merely this one time."
"Many times!" cried the miserable Gates. "He's made me give him information about rich friends who might have secret family trouble-particularly where the women had jewels. He made me tell all I knew about Margerie and Jeff Winthrop. And he's forced me to help out in several jewel-plots very much like this one. It was terrible

—I loathed myself! But I kept saying to myself that the people weren't really hurt; they were frightened and had to pay money, but I thought they could afford that better than I could afford exposure and prison!"

"And when Templeton did not rich woman with jewels involved in a real folly," pursued Clifford, "then he manu-factured a folly which looked real and was just as profitable as though real?"

"Of course! Just as he did with Margerie Winthrop. He's used many other gerie Winthrop. He's used many other people just as he has me—and that Gray Goose Inn is one of his regular traps and he has many other traps!

"And that night at the Gray Goose," Clifford pressed on, "Templeton himself was the masked bandit leader?"

course Templeton was.

said that before?"

id that before?
"His story is all a lie!" furiously cried
empleton. "A lie made up to evade his Templeton. "A lie made up to evaue moon guilt! If there was a plot in this Clifford, Gates was its leader, for I now admit what you a few minutes ago were claiming-that he is the client I have been representing!"

Clifford ignored Templeton's denuncia-tion. "General Thorne," he remarked with grim slowness, "as you see, Templeton has great developed a business. criminal business in all the world, this method of collecting ransom on helpless women's folly—so Templeton believed."
"Monstrous!" breathed General Thorne.

"I deny everything!" cried Templeton. "On the face of it, what you say is prepos-terous. If I were the head of such a criminal enterprise, I'd never jeopardize my own safety by playing the part of bandit.

"That's exactly what you would do," re-rted Clifford. "A hundred thousand in torted Clifford. jewels, with a quarter of a million as their ransom-foolish to trust such a fortune to a subordinate who might walk off with the loot! Better to handle it yourself with a couple of supers, and have the whole quarter million. Safe enough, too, since you believed no one would dare betray you. That's just how you reasoned, Templeton but at last your self-confidence led you to take too great a risk!"

Templeton laughed with a mocking defiance directed at them all. "Just a pipedream! But even if it were all so, you couldn't touch me. You've only one witness, Gates—it's my word against his and my word has more weight than that of any self-admitted liar, betrayer of women

and tool of bandits!"

THE man's insolent sense of security was too much for Clifford, and a savage fury swept away all his self-control—or so

"Then, by heaven, you'll get your pun-hment right here—the beating of your ishment life!" cried Clifford, seizing the left wrist of the injured man and striking across the mouth with his open palm. He across the mouth with his open palm. He across the mouth with his open palm. He the injured man and striking him cruelly caught Templeton's handsome nose.

if I don't twist off your damned beak-"
But he did not. Templeton let out a roar of pain and rage, and his bandaged hand came out of its sling and swung vi-ciously for Clifford's jaw. Clifford saw the punch coming and caught it on the top of his head; even so, the solid blow jarred him. Instantly he seized the wrist of the bandaged right hand.

"I thought so, Templeton—a perfectly good hand, and I made you prove it to me!" Clifford exclaimed exultantly.

"What's that-what's that?" cried Gen-

eral Thorne.
"A fake injury to hide his hand—I guessed it from the start. Why should he want to hide it? General, Judge Foster, Gates, help hold him while I take off his bandage.

The three closed in on Templeton, who fought madly, but to no avail. Clifford unwound the bandage, then applied himself to unclenching the hand which had convulsively closed into a fist. Templeton strug-gled more desperately, but inexorably Clifford forced the fingers to unclench, and then held the opened hand aloft, the palm

toward Margerie Winthrop.
"Look at this hand, Mrs. Winthrop,"
Clifford cried out. "Have you ever seen it

Margerie Winthrop stared at the hand with its twisted little finger and its welt of

a red scar across the palm.
"The bandit's hand!" she gasped involuntarily.
"The hand that reached at me like a claw and took off my jewelry!"

Clifford released the hand and turned

Clifford released the hand and turned to General Thorne: "I think that gives you a very complete case against the greatest of the jewel-bandits, General-with yourself as one of the witnesses to his taking the blackmail money. And that money, Judge Foster, you will get back for Mrs. Winthrop after it has served as evidence."

BUT even at that Templeton did not yield. He played what from the start he had considered his ace of trumps.

"You do not dare touch me," he coolly defied them. "All of you have as your chief concern the happiness of Mrs. and Mr. Winthrop together. Arrest me, and you make this story public. In spite of all explanations, Jeff Winthrop will believe the worst—he will believe all explanations, the lies invented by two guilty people to save themselves—and he will go out to smash everything. You all know very well that Winthrop will do exactly this."

"Yes, yes—Mr. Templeton is right," whis-pered Margerie Winthrop. "Jeff wont believe a thing—so—so, after all, we don't

"You are right about how Jeff will take it," General Thorne admitted gravely.

"They are right about Jeff, and that means we're forced to let Templeton off," agreed Judge Foster. "You've just done a great piece of work, Clifford—but the Winthrop case is still almost exactly as it was in the beginning."

"All because the husband wont believeis that how you sum it up, Judge Foster?" queried Clifford.

"Exactly. Jeff Winthrop, with his wild temper and wilder jealousy, has been our great danger and problem from the very start-and he is still that danger and prob-

"And so, Clifford," put in Templeton ockingly, "that lets me out, and you're mockingly, not so clever as you thought you were!"

"Judge Foster, all of you," Clifford quietly addressed them, "I took this case on the basis of trying to save the Winthrop marriage and save it permanently. At our first interview I said the only hope of an abiding happiness in such a case was in stating the alleged misconduct and seeking





.. although 4 out of 5 are victims of Pyorrhea

What a remarkable woman! She seems to have captured eternal youth with all its charm. While others seek refuge in the shadows, she welcomes sunlight, for she has nothing to hide. Her beauty blooms triumphant over time. . . . To her, the dangerous age of 40 means nothing more than another wonderful year to live. She is safeguarded against that sworn enemy of good health and beauty—Pyorrhea.

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forgiveness or belief. To get Jeff Winthrop to believe has been one of my chief ef-He is waiting in the next room, and

we will now see if he believes our story."

'Oh, don't have him in!" frantically besought Margerie Winthrop. "Don't—don't "Don't-don't

-please don't!"

'If he comes, Clifford, I'll show him that letter I told you about!" snapped Templeton. "I have a carbon with me!"

"Come in, Winthrop," was Clifford's reply

to this threat.

HROUGH the sitting-room door stepped Jefferson Winthrop. That eruptive young individualist was pale and strangely quiet—to several in the room his was the quiet that precedes passion's all-destructive storm.

His eyes furtively went first to Arline Sinclair, then hastily shifted to Clifford.

"Winthrop, you've stood outside heard all that we have said?" Cl and asked.

"Yes."

"Jeff Winthrop, you heard all that and yet said nothing?" exclaimed the astounded Judge Foster. "What could keep you si-Judge Foster. lent?

"Mr. Clifford ordered me to be silent."
"But you would not have been silent if you had heard the truth, instead of the lying explanations of the two guilty par-ties!" cried Templeton, jerking a paper from an inner pocket. "There is a carbon of a letter to yourself that gives you a true ac-count of that love-scene at the Gray Goose -read it!"

Winthrop hesitated. "Take it and read" said Clifford.

Winthrop obeyed. A deep hush fell on the room. All except Clifford stared in breathless tensity at Jeff Winthrop while he read Templeton's damning and inflammatory version of the episode—Margerie Winthrop shrinking back in her bed in the extremity of terror, her very life almost flowing from her. To them the next moment held the climax of this long scene, and that cli-max was to be an eruption of devastating

But that expected climax was an anti-climax. Jeff Winthrop looked quietly up from the letter and his eyes apprehensively

and pleadingly sought his wife's.
"Just—just tell me what you want me
to believe, Margerie," he breathed huskily.
"Jeff!" she gasped, stupefied by such
words from him. "I—I don't understand!" "I'll believe exactly what you want me to believe, Margerie."

'Jeff-you mean that?" she cried in-

credulously.

She saw that he did.

"Jeff dear, I didn't intend to do anything wrong—and Harold Gates says that I really didn't."

"I believe that, Margerie. But even if what this letter says were true, it wouldn't make much difference to me—not if you still love me as I love you.

Why-Jefferson Winthrop!"

"Because, you see, Marjorie, there's some-thing just as bad I want to confess—and and I'm hoping you'll forgive-

"I don't want to hear it!" she interrupted wildly, stretching out her arms to him. "Oh, Jeff-Jeff-Jeff!"

He plunged to his knees beside the bed. The others turned from this sight.
"Clifford," ejaculated Judge Foster, "how

in the name of God did you get Jeff Win-throp into a mood like that?"

"One of the surest ways to get an obstinate person to understand, or forgive, a given situation, is for that person to be involved in the identical situation and have the person suffer the thing for himself."

From a pocket Clifford drew a second flashing the interest of the person suffered the person suffered the person suffered the person suffered the person is the person suffered to the person to be involved to the person to light photograph, unfolded it and held it aloft. "This is the situation that has made

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it so easy for Jeff Winthrop to understand his wife's situation."

This photograph was also a version of the scene at the Gray Goose, and was a duplicate of the compromising photograph he had shown a little before, except that in this picture the man with Arline Sinclair

"No wonder Jeff is willing to forgive!"
exclaimed Judge Foster.
"Let your wife see this picture, Win-"Let your wife see this picture, win-rop," said Clifford, handing it to the hus-ind. "And listen, Winthrop—you too, Gates—listen, all of you—for we're now all going to come clean together.

"Almost from the beginning I thought I saw through Templeton's scheme: to dope Mrs. Winthrop, involve her with Gates, and do it so adroitly that she believed herself guilty. It was a clever frame-up. I wondered if this same frame-up, which had been used as the basis of a crime, might not be used as the basis of the solution of that crime. I decided it was worth trying; borrowed Templeton's idea and with Miss Sinclair's kind assistance I used it on Gates and then on Winthrop."

"You mean my being with Arline Sin-air—that way—was just a frame-up?" exclair-that wayclaimed Jeff Winthrop, and Gates cried out to the same effect.

"It was an exact duplicate of Mrs. Winthrop's situation in both cases, and you both are just as innocent as she is."

"So, I'm not so terrible as you boys thought, am I, Jeff and Harold?" smilingly put in Arline Sinclair. "I just followed Mr. Clifford's stage directions—about slipping the dope into your drink and all the rest. you needn't worry about my husband— we've patched things up beautifully—and it was my Billy himself who staged those two scenes and shot the two pictures."

"Then—then—may I go to my wife, Mr. Clifford?" gulped Harold Gates.
"Yes—and I hope you and your wife will

be happy. I don't know what your old trouble is, Gates; but come and see me to-It will be strange if General morrow. It will be strange it General Thorne, Judge Foster and I together can't help you iron it out."

"Thanks, Mr. Clifford; you—you seem to have pulled us all out of our mess,"

Gates mumbled tervently, and vanished from the room. Arline Sinclair, her rôle played out, smiled on all and followed him. "General Thorne, Judge Foster," continued Clifford, "since the Winthrops believe each other, you now have no reason to fear the publicity that will follow Templeton's arrest and trial. In anticipation of this outcome. General, I have taken the libthis outcome, General, I have taken the lib-erty to have Detective Sergeant Kelly and some of your men in waiting. -Come in, Jimmy.

The next moment Templeton, now sickly white with the realization of his vast overturning, was being led from the room in handcuffs.

"And you yourself handcuffed, Clifford—double handcuffed!" marveled General Thorne, watching the exit of the fallen lawyer. "And yet you've landed the greatest of all the bandit-blackmailers! Amazing simply amazing!"

"Yes," agreed Judge Foster in his affectionate growl. "But not so amazing as bringing these two young idiots together and making them behave like human beings. Just look at them, Clifford—they're the best part of your job!"

Clifford looked. The two were close in the property of the pr

the embrace of those regaining a paradise they had considered lost, and were wildly sobbing out broken, meaningless words that held all the meaning of love's world. Per-haps Judge Foster was right, but Clifford made no reply. Instead he slipped an arm through an arm of each old friend and led them tiptoeing out, and left the reunited pair alone with their love and their vows of tolerance.

THE ROAD TO UNDERSTANDING

I SOLATION is the enemy of understanding. The isolated nation, sunk in itself, is a stagnant pool breeding petty hatreds and magnifying imaginary grievances against strange neighbors. The individual who shuts himself within the narrow borders of his own routine, his own community, entrenched behind the barriers of his limited experience and his prejudices, cuts himself off from free and broad understanding of his fellow beings.

The attitude of such an individual toward the citizens of a different country, state or nation is apt to be similar to the one expressed by the

familiar jingle toward the legendary Doctor Fell:

"The reason why, I cannot tell; But this I know, and know full well,— I do not like you, Doctor Fell."

Thousands of anecdotes, more or less humorous, have been built around the innate distrust of the farmer for the "city fellow" and the indifference of the urban citizen toward the country lad. The redoubtable old lady in "Tom Sawyer," typified only a slightly exaggerated slant of the provincial mind when she bristled indignantly at the suggestion that she would be considered a "foreigner" by the natives of other countries. Not a bit of it! In London, or Constantinople, or the remote regions of China, she would still look on the inhabitants as "foreigners," and, as such, distrust or scorn them.

In by gone days travel was a slow and difficult business, to be undertaken only under the urge of necessity. Then it was almost impossible for the average person to gain a first-hand knowledge of countries other than his own, or even of remotest sections of his own country. To a dweller on the Eastern Seaboard, the Far West was almost a legendary country. To a citizen of the Middle West, a journey to Europe loomed as a well-nigh impossible feat. It was inevitable that national and sectional prejudice should have arisen, creating mutual distrust and even suspicion between "Doctor Fells" who disliked each other simply because

they did not know each other.

Today, with the highways of modern travel criss-crossing continents and oceans, there is no excuse for the narrow-minded individual who would measure the world by his own yardstick and look on everything "different" or "foreign" as undesirable. The facilities are at hand, and every year, more and more people are taking advantage of the varied and tempting opportunities to combine rest and recreation with one of the richest forms of self-development. And with a wider knowledge of other communities, other nations, they can bring to the problems of their own country and community a more tempered judgment, a more balanced outlook, gained through travel, the great road to understanding.



New Belgium, North America as seen by an ambitious prince



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THERE was once an ambitious prince who had owned and lost a choice portion of that territory now known as the United States of America.

He hoped some day to regain it. And while wresting actual possession out of the hands of the powerful English might be a difficult matter, nothing could prevent him from making a map of what his heart desired.

This, therefore, he had done, labeling it New Netherlands, or in Latin, Nova Releica.

It was easy enough in those days. Existing maps were collected and compared and the various renderings adapted to the maker's fancy.

One put Lake Champlain here and the Hudson River there, with the Connecticut River running almost anywhere in between. A capricious curlicue did nicely for Cape Cod.

The result was decorative indeed, as you can see from the above. But it

is hardly to be recommended as a guide for the traveler of today.

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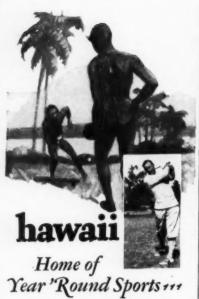
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There are famous golf courses today where the ancient Hawaiian chiefs played Maika—a kind of bowls. With marvelous shill, a small lava stone disc was bounded between two uprich sticks. The best Maika players were said to bowl over 150 yards.

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A MAN'S CASTLE

(Continued from page 39)

It was even deeper than that, as I discovered a few days later when Remsen brought his tall young son to the club for luncheon. They were going out to see the polo match together afterward. The boy was just old enough to be admitted as a visitor. We of the House Committee have to be very strict about these matters. A club like ours shall not be turned into an infants' asylum so long as I am on the Committee.

I was there when they came in, and it touched me to see how frankly awed and impressed the youngster was by the comfort and completeness, I may even say luxury, of the place. He was not afraid to show his naïve and pleased curiosity in every detail—when his name was written in the guest-book, and when he found, there in the office, his father's name in one of the rows of letter-boxes. There was none of that nauseating attempt at sophistication which always spoils whatever charm youth may possess for me. The only quality that makes youth tolerable is youthfulness.

ness.

I lunched with them. So did two or three others who were going out to see the match. I think my old friend wanted to show off this tall, handsome son of his. But Rem had none of the smiling condescension fathers so often assume, nor that noisy jocularity which, I am sure, offends youth even more.

We seem to be raising a race of giants nowadays—those of my contemporaries, I mean to say, who go in for having children. But there was no awkward blushing self-consciousness on the part of the boy. As I look back upon it now, the mutual attitude of this father and son was casual but considerate attention. That was their outward and visible manner. But I, who have no children, never wanted any, and am therefore in a better position to maintain a perspective on these matters, could see that this parent, under his well-bred reserve, was so proud of his youngster that he was trying to conceal it. And the boy fairly worshiped his father. It must give a man a queer sensation to have something of that sort for his own.

I HAVE made allusions to our letter-boxes. I must now do so again. In addition to those lettered A, B, C, and so forth, which are for common use and are not locked, there are, as at all well-appointed clubs, a goodly number of private boxes, marked by the members' names, besides those for the Committee on Admissions, the House Committee, and so on.

Some of the members use their mail-boxes as small-sized temporary safe-deposits and keep therein documents they may have been working on up in the quiet alcoves of our mellow-toned library, or memoranda or tobacco-pouches; or even, at times, though I am happy to say my committee has put a stop to this, they have been used to hold a flask. One member has kept a piece of wedding-cake in his box for forty years. Sentiment? I don't know. Probably carelessness. He wouldn't dare eat it now. These letter-boxes are ranged along one

These letter-boxes are ranged along one wall of the room, conveniently adjacent to a long desklike arrangement similar to those used by bookkeepers, where one may sort out one's letters. It also holds telegraph, cable and radiograph blanks. At one end is a rack containing in its various divisions bank checks which, for the convenience of members, are already filled out in various amounts from ten to one hundred dollars, so that one need only write in the name of one's banker and add one's signature in order to obtain cash from one

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of the attendants behind the counter about five feet away. Across the room are rail-road guides, city directories and social reg-isters for the leading towns in the country.

I recall so well the pleasure I had in watching Cranston's interested young eyes when I took pains to point out all these advantages. He ejaculated, "Gosh!" boyishly, but seemed slightly amused, reminding

me of his father.

I do not wish to be vainglorious, but I think I may say that our committee provides as many comforts and conveniences for our members as any organization of its sort in the world. And I speak from the point of view of one who, though he belongs to but few clubs (all of them of the best, however), has had the honor of being introduced as a visitor at many of the leading below in I ordan and on the Continent.

ing clubs in London and on the Continent.

Because I am a bachelor and live at the club, I have one of these private letter-boxes. Such of my personal mail as does not come to my office, I receive here, though I sometimes send downstairs for it when I am breakfasting in bed. Remsen Cole had a home of his own—several of them, in fact. The personal mail he got out of his lock-box at the club was of a sort which he did not want to arrive at his office, much less at his home.

I know this because one day he turned to

I know this because one day he turned to me when we both happened to be looking for letters and said: "Don't go away, Willie. I want to speak to you."

I took out my letters and slammed the little glass door shut, leaving the key in the lock. He took out his letters and the state of the little glass door shut took but he little glass door shut took but slammed his little glass door shut too, but he removed the key and pocketed it. He stood there staring at a letter and seemed to forget my presence until I said: "Did you want to see me? This is my hour for a golf lesson up on the roof."

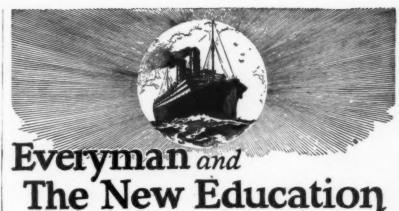
Remsen ignored me for a moment. "Oh, yes," he said, and absently folded up his letter. He then led me out into the hall and pointed to a seat by the fireplace where had stood on the night when I witnessed his unprecedented entrance to the club. "Sorry," I said, "but I'll be late."

He was taking one of two duplicate keys off his key-ring. "Willie," he said, "if anything ever happens to me, I want you to open my mail-box and destroy the contents. Here's a key. Keep it some place where

you wont lose it."
"Very well," I said, "I wont lose it." And I hurried on up to the roof, where the professional told me what was the matwith my stance. That evening I fastere with my stance. That evening I has tened a tag on the key, marked it with a private sign, put it in my strong-box and made a record of it in my card-catalogue, where I keep my memoranda of many things, such as the names, addresses and brief descriptions of new acquaintances I meet at dinners, on steamers or abroad.

SHOULD I ever have a son (God forbid!) I probably would fail as a father. I think all parents are failures. At best, they are mere amateur parents. By the time they have learned their profession and are fit to qualify as experts, they are old and out of a job.

But there are two lessons I would im-press upon my children, if I had any, as soon as they could read and write. First, never put anything in handwriting which you are not willing to have the whole world see. Second, never keep anything written to you which you are not also willing to have the whole world see. For, once you have committed yourself on paper, your writings may prove to be as imperishable as William Shakespeare's. Those of my friends who are fathers train their children to have a proper contempt for anonymous com-munications, but they seldom instruct their young as to the disposition of communica-



Luman nature has never been so inquiring, so eager to know the world, as in this day of its swift and progressive life.

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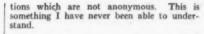
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I HAD been dining out. I think it was at the Hargraves'. Indeed, I know it was, because Billy had ordered up from his excellent cellar a few of his last remaining bottles of Corton Charlemagne 1915, a noble vintage. I am very fond of white wine. I had come back to the club feeling at peace with the world and wearing my new fur coat open, with the black ribbon which holds my pince-nez crossing my shirt-front. I saw Remsen Cole sitting on a sofa near the fireplace. He too had been dining out, but in very different society. His legs were sprawled out in front of him; his chin was on his chest; and—be was very

legs were sprawled out in front of him; his chin was on his chest; and—he was very tight. I hurried on by, hoping to reach the elevator around the corner before he looked up, but I was too late. He had seen me and came after me, calling my name. He almost shouted it. It was most embarrassing. Other members were about. This wouldn't do. I took him by the arm and led him down the passage in the direction of the theater-booth, now dark and deserted.

He then began to tell me about his "new mirl," as he phrased it. He put his arm around my shoulders so that I could not I was more than bored: annoyed. He was quite maudlin and objectionable. The new one was about nineteen, it appeared, and she loved him to death, he said. He grinned and seemed very proud of himself

"Oh, shut up," I said: "you're drunk."
"Well, if you don't believe me, just look
at this." He brought a letter out of his pocket.

"I'm afraid I'm not interested, Rem," I remarked, and again tried to leave. But again he pursued me. "Wait a minute, Willie. Don't go away mad. You think they just work me for money. Nothing of the sort. She's crazy about me. They all get crazy about me."

At that point some members were approaching from the direction of the billiard-room and I considered it my duty, both to my friend and my club, to quiet him. "Come upstairs and tell me all about him. Don't make a fool of yourself here."

"All right," he said; "just as good old Willie says."

I hurried him into the elevator. He is the kind who never staggers. In fact, he looks preternaturally grave and dignified when intoxicated. None of the members had noticed us. Fortunately, while the ele-vator shot up to my floor, he slept, stand-ing, so that there was nothing for the servants to gossip about.

servants to gossip about.

I took him to my room, seated him and telephoned downstairs for some coffee.

Meanwhile he kept on muttering eulogies of his "little girl."

"I see," said I, "very interesting."

"She's a little darling," he said, "and Lord, how she loves me! Just read this."

"No, thanks," I said.

He then began to tell me what good

He then began to tell me what good friends we used to be. With that, he forgot about his "little girl" and told me what a wonderful woman his wife was, and cried copously. It was rather horrible.

The letter fell from his hand, and that reminded him. He picked it up and demanded that I read it, and seemed so angry and indignant when I shook my head, that to humor him, I complied. No use in reproducing it here. You can read it any day, or one enough like it, in the yellow newspaper accounts of divorce-cases and trials for breach-of-promise. A semi-illiterate letter in which my formerly intimate friend ter in which my formerly intimate friend was addressed as "Dear darling daddy," with allusions to love and the next meet-There were entrancing epithets such

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Sunshine Belt to the Orient''

"iazz baby" and "old sugar daddy." did not mind that so much as I did the vulgar and polluting use of that tender phrase, "my sweetheart," a term which has different connotations and sacred memories. 'Now, isn't that a nice letter from my

new little girl?" "Oh, beautiful!" I said. "How many

have you got?" "Oh, I get one almost every day."

"Where are they

"Down in my lock-box."

"Burn them up."

He looked at me with drunken indigna-on. "Burn those letters up? Not on Not on tion your life!"

He raised the letter to his lips and kissed

I turned my face away. I thought of it. I turned my face away. I thought of his wife and his boy—of the boy, somehow, more than his mother.

After a while the coffee got in its work and I called a cab and took him home. He seemed perfectly sober when he bade me good night at the door and thanked me for my kindness. The next day he anologized.
"I don't remember much of it, Willie," he said, "but excuse me for boring you."

"Have you destroyed the contents of your letter-box?"

He seemed taken aback. "Oh, did I show you her letters? I must have been drunker than I thought I was. I'm sorry. She's an agreeable kid, but not what you'd call edu-

"Here's your key," I said.
"What's the matter, Willie?"

"I don't care for the responsibility."

"No responsibility unless something should happen to me. In that case, I'm sure you'd be willing to do that much for me for old-times' sake."

"Clean out the mess in your letter-box," said. "Get rid of it once for all, and of I said any other letters of that sort that That's a far safer bet than relying on me or anyone else to do the job after you're dead." I gave him a long lecture, and although he seemed amused at me, he finally agreed and thanked me. He was treating me with more respect nowadays than when, as undergraduates together, I looked up to him with awe as one of the "greatest men on the campus." I think he was feeling the defection of other friends.

"Of course you're right," he said, "but somehow those ignorant, naïve letters of hers please me. She's a darling, this one."

A FEW days later, as I was getting my mail, I happened to glance at his box. which was near my own. I saw through the little glass door that it was empty, and

I breathed a sigh of relief.

I think it happened on Wednesday.

No, it must have been Thursday, because that is my Turkish bath day, and I recall now that I had to break my fixed habit and did not get down to our baths in the basement at all, because of the sad occurrence I am about to record.

It is also my custom, after breakfasting upstairs, to step into the office and see if there are any important communications in the House Committee box before walking down to business-another excellent habit of mine which had to be abandoned on this crowded day. For, upon bestowing my usual glance upon the bulletin board as I was about to pass out of the room, I saw, pinned with a thumb-tack to the cork background, the customary white card with a quarter-inch border of black, announcing the death of a member. I had not expected it to be poor old Rem, and I confess I was quite shaken. That is why I took a taxi to my place of business not far downtown.

So poor old Rem was gone! An ancient phrase flashed through my mind—"the pace that kills." It was too swift for him. He had not trained for it in his youth.



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But that was not exactly the way of it, as I learned immediately upon entering my office. A man was there waiting to see me
—a stranger, a former acquaintance of —a stranger, a former acquaintance of Rem's. I would hardly have said a friend, but I must confess that, despite his being a most ordinary person, he had acted the part of a true friend to Remsen Cole in his last hours. I learned later that he was a professional gambler and race-track tout.

HIS person, it seems, had been with Cole This person, it seems, had been with the previous evening. It does not matter where. The point is that Rem had died suddenly and most inappropriately in a suddenly and most inappropriately in a house that was not his own and was not meant for dying purposes at all. Worse than that, he had not died what is called a natural death. He had encountered there a woman named Mary. That was the only name by which my informant knew her— Mary. She, for some reason unknown to him, had, without a word, picked up a beer-bottle and bashed Rem over the head with it. There was no outcry. When the other denizens of this haunt of the underworld came in, the woman named Mary had gone, and Rem's male associate stated that the swell guy had fainted.

This acquaintance, this really good friend of Rem's and of mine now too, had, with the aid of others, succeeded in getting what was left of Remsen Cole into a taxicab, one walking on either side, holding his arms over their shoulders. The driver and any chance passers-by, upon observing this not unusual transit from the doorstep to the curb, had doubtless smiled, if the sight registered upon them at all. The crumpled-up figure which was being dragged into the cab would recely suggest a man dead drunk, not a man dead.

In this taxicab the body was taken through the gayly lighted purlieus of Broadway and up the more dignified brilliance of Fifth Avenue, and so to the house that had once been Remsen's happy home. was deposited in the vestibule, the door-bell was rung and his Samaritans fled. And this was the kindest thing they could have done under the circumstances.

"But why," I asked my caller, "have you come to me?"

The reply was: "Here's the bird's pocketbook. With them visiting-cards I found this piece of paper. It says to call you up in case of accident." He handed me the open pocketbook. I saw a rather thick assortment of yellow bills.

I was impressed by the man's honesty. "I see," said I, "and I thank you." I gave him

my hand.

The stranger arose. "Sure," he said that's all right. But it's up to you to do the rest. You gotta handle the doctors and newspaper boys. Here's my phone-number if you need me. Good guy, that friend of yours. He always treated me white."

I may say at once that I was eminently successful both with the family physician and the newspapers. We gave out the statement which appeared in the obituary notice in the afternoon editions, that Mr. Remsen Cole had died of heart-failure at his door-step upon returning from his club. The doctor and I between us had decided that our friend, when his heart collapsed, had fallen and struck his head against an Ital-

fallen and struck his head against an Italian marble bench there in the vestibule.

I had dropped everything else and had called at the house immediately. Mrs. Cole was still in the South, but had been summoned home. The offer of my not inexperienced aid in making the final arrangements was gratefully accepted by the family. That must be my excuse for failing even to think of Rem's letter-box until after the funeral

SO far as I could make out through the glass door, there was only one letter there, lying face down, waiting for my-dead

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friend. But one would be quite enough, I knew, and reproached myself for returning Rem's key.

After another week of considerable anxiety and some remorse, I consulted my fellow-committeeman, Scott Henderson. I took him into the office and indicated the "Poor old Rem's gone now, and the mail that comes here for him is not cal-culated to please his family when his executors begin rounding up his effects."

I told him of Cole's request.

Henderson knew something Rem's latter-day tendencies, but unfortu-

nately he is a lawyer.
"Willie! You can't break into a dead

man's private letter-box!"

"Not so loud," I said, and drew him across the room. It was the crowded hour, and others were coming in. "Such things have been done," I told him, "and you

"But the law is very clear in such mat-

s. Besides, you have no key."
"Then I'll break the box and the law o. I owe it to my friend and the club."
"Good God!" he whispered. "Look!"

Young Cranston Cole had entered the room. He was looking along the rows of mail-boxes. He stopped before the one bearing his late father's name, took out a key, opened the lock, withdrew the letter and now was gazing at the handwriting on the envelope. **FOUNG** Cranston Cole had entered the the envelope.

Willie, it's up to you," said Henderson,

and left me flat.

I hesitated a moment, and who can blame he? Then I strode across to the youth, who seemed so deeply absorbed that he did not look up until I spoke his name. Then he hurriedly concealed the letter and made an attempt to convey it surreptitiously to his pocket, but I saw that he had not opened it.

"I want to thank you again, sir," he bean, "for all you have done for us. "Well, good night, sir." He turned to go, but I was determined that he should not

but I was determined that he should not leave the club with that letter.

"So glad to see vou here," I remarked, joining him. "Why didn't you tell me you could use a visitor's card?"

"Uncle Alfred put me up."

"By the way, there's something I want to tell you. Could you come upstairs a moment?" to tell you.

In my room I offered him a cigarette and a chair. He declined both. "Is it about my father?" he asked. There was a note in his young voice when he pronounced those last two simple words that made me

extremely uncomfortable.
"Why, yes," I said. "You see, he and I were close friends. In some ways I knew him better than you did, better even than

sir?

him better than you doe, your mother, I fancy."

To cover his emotions, he crossed and the window. "I know what looked out of the window. "I know what you mean. My mother has told me about their estrangement. She was afraid I'd hear of it from some one else."

"I see. Did that have anything to do

with your coming here this afternoon?"

He nodded. "She asked me to do some-thing for her."

"Well, I am going to ask you to do some-thing for me. Would you mind letting me have that letter in your pocket?" He now turned and looked utterly amazed "Why, what do you mean, naturally.

"Well, I'll tell you: Your father was such a confidential friend of mine that he was kind enough to receive letters for me.'

"Letters for you?" "Yes. Owing to-ah-circumstances which

I prefer not to explain, I did not want them to come to my box, to my name. You have one of them in your pocket. It really belongs to me, you see."



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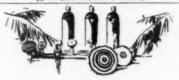
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"Aren't you mistaken?" He was polite,

but seemed quite positive.
"Oh, I know it's addressed to your father on the outside, but there is another envel-ope within addressed to me."
"I don't know what you are talking

about."

"Naturally. But just take my word for

"Naturally. But just take my word for it, like a good fellow."
"I'm awfully sorry to say so, but I'm afraid I can't let you have it."
I wondered how he knew so much. I tried another tack. "I'll tell you what let's do. Let's compromise—let's burn it up."
My fire of cannel coal was burning bright-

But I haven't read it yet." He seemed so pathetically and trustingly puzzled. He

"Why, Cranston, my boy, you wouldn't open and read another man's mail? It isn't done."

"Mother asked me to do it."

"Your mother!"

"Certainly. You never understood their tuation. No one did, but myself." situation. The painful subject was almost too much

for him. He crossed toward the door.
"Wait a minute," I said. "If you are determined to read that letter, read it here and now.

"Why?"

"Because then I can explain it to youfar better than your mother could.'

For answer he stepped briskly back to the window, opening the letter as he did

I confess I turned my face away, not merely to avoid seeing his, but because I knew I must now concentrate upon some good plausible story. Any man can lie like a gentleman, but I would have to lie like an artist.

I heard the crinkling sound as he turned the inside pages of the letter. It made me jump. The silence was not long, but it was rather horrible, and I was no artist. heard him fold the letter up.

"Have you read it?" I asked. There was a pause. I knew he was try-g to control his voice. "Yes sir," he ing to control his voice. said.

"Don't misjudge your father," I said. "My father was one of the finest men that ever lived."

"Of course he was."

"Read this page," said the boy. "He wouldn't mind." He put the letter into my hand and went back to the window.

I saw at once that it was not the vulgar illiterate scrawl that Rem had exhibited to me with such drunken delight. And I read the following amazing words:

"... So, after all, dear Rem, it really doesn't matter how many superficial things we disagree on, so long as we, his father and mother, agree on loving the boy. He adores you, Rem. Since his earliest infancy I you, Rem. Since his earliest infancy I have held you up as his model, but I'm afraid I can't claim credit for his idolizing you. You caused that yourself. He has always said that he would rather grow up to be a man like you than anyone else in the world."

I looked across at the boy. He was gazing out over the roof-tops of our big, bad, noisy town. He was biting his lip. "I'll never be able to be like him," my dead friend's son said, shaking his head. He turned and looked me steadily in the eye. "Do you think I could ever be like him, eight."

I patted him on the back. "Oh, I'm sure you could," said I, "—that is, if you wanted to.'

Well, what else could I say?

COMMUNISTIC FRANKFURTERS

(Continued from page 94)

responsibility for me, Jack. Better draw cuts to see who'll play."

Sam cut two rope-yarns, a long one and a short one. He hid them in his fat, cal-loused hand, with the ends barely sticking out, and held them up. "Pull," he said; "the short yarn plays

Jack drew the long one.

Captain Crisp appeared on deck with a dirty deck of cards and the frankfurters. He was bareheaded, and had spectacles over his eyes that hooked around his ears.

"Divide 'em up," said Sam; "that's my way of working, Jack—fast and close, eh?"

The Captain counted out the glass jars. There were twenty-two of them; he had eaten two. Sam took fourteen—Jack's share and his own; the Captain took seven. was one to be divided. Sam pulled the top off the jar and stuck his fingers in. pulled them out, the dog made a dive through arms and legs, and like a magnet gathered in the loose sausages, and swallowed them whole.

"Tie him up," ordered the Captain, "or there'll be no game here today!"

The dog howled as he was snubbed to a nooring-bitt.

The Captain and Sam, regardless of wind nd wave, picked up their jars and walked to the main hatch, where the game started with wolflike viciousness.

"Jacks or better'll be the game—and a jar of sausage opens the pot," said the master. "That suits me." And he spat on his hands.

They sat down on the hatch facing each other, their legs making a wind-shield for loose cards. The Captain shuffled the cards with his tongue between his teeth. So honest was Sam that he didn't notice that many of the cards bore devices suspicious and foreign

to their nature, nor that kings and queens were strangely dog-eared and crinkled.

The deal fell to the Captain. Sam opened the pot on two queens; he moved in a jar of frankfurters

"I'll raise you two," said the Captain. "And to show you there is no advantage in the draw, I'll deal myself three too."

Sam looked at his dealt cards. He saw he had another queen.
"Pass," he said in a conquering voice. 'Pass,"

The Clippsky was careening over; like a diving gull she plunged breast-deep in the waves, and spray commenced to fly over the forward deck.

"We aint a-goin' to play here all day," said the Captain, picking up his hand; "let's make short work of it; we'll soon have to take sail off the little vessel. My hand is worth three jars of the meat."

The wind fluttered the cards in Sam's hand. He looked at the three queens. Should he call the Captain? He thought of his partner at the wheel and the stake.

"Come on," shouted the Captain.
or shut up!" "Put up

Sam trembled so that the heels of his blücher boots barely maintained their hold on the hatch combings. The man at the wheel used every ounce of muscle in his body, every bit of determination in his mind to keep the struggling schooner from broaching to under her overload of canvas. Captain, equally oblivious to anything but game, demanded the play.

"What ye got?" Sam's voice sounded strange in his own ears.

The Captain, before showing down. glammed his jars and swept them in between

"How d'you know you win?" asked Sam.
"How in hell do I know it's blowing?"

answered the other. "Because I feel it; that's Then he spread three kings face up. "There they are; can you beat them?"
Sam's eyes seemed to sink into his head

like those of a dead fish, and inarticulate sounds rumbled out of him. He looked at the eight jars that remained to him. Only a moment ago they had been fourteen. One

"Come, come, deal them up, deal them up; this is no time to mourn!

WITH wind blowing and sea rising, Sam's conscience refused to subside. What if the next hand should be equally disastrous? Jack would have to finish the game, and if he lost-well, they could go on grind-

"I aint a-playin' you any more," he said, getting up from the hatch; "me partner'll tackle you now." Then with straddled legs and a stormy stride he walked aft to the

wheel.

"I aint afeard of his game, Jack—no, not me; but I thought you'd just want to give him a twirl. There's eight jars left, and that's a pile you'd ought to be able to do something with."

"My bloody word," said Jack earnestly, "he carn't bluff me. But I say, Sam, watch the schooner-she's a bit daffy. 'Old her with about three spokes of weather helm. She's kittish, she is."

Sam's grasp on the wheel instinctively brought the weather uppermost to his mind; Jack, relieved, became instantaneously immersed in the game.

"Cut for the deal, me man," said the Cap-"Honesty counts on my ship."

But suspicion dwelt in Jack's eyes as they rested on the Captain. The wind made dealing difficult, and each card was passed. His own cards the Captain tucked under his fat thigh. Then the betting started, for Jack had three kings before the draw, and he acted as though he were sitting on a hot griddle. Danger was not in his calculations, and he could almost taste the juiciness of "Well," said Captain Crisp, "are you open-ing her?"

"I am that, and no mistake about it. Two

jars.

"It'll cost you six more-all you've got." A devilish snicker came from the Captain.

Sam at the wheel was more disturbed by what was going on at the hatch than he was by the seething elements. He was steering more by instinct than he was by the feel of the Clippsky. Once, when his mind was away munching frankfurters, the schooner, like a runaway horse with a loose rein, broached to a point or more, and lifted the green over her bows. Quick action and strong muscle met her, to put her back without damage. Then the dog that was without damage. Then the dog that was tied across from him lifted his head, boring into the windy skies, and cried pathetically, like a coyote: "Oo-o-oooo!"

A chill ran up Sam's spine.
"That aint any good sign," he said aloud. Uncanny notes continued from the dog.

"Shut your mouth, darn ye!" shouted the sailor, and let go the wheel to release that ill-omened hound. Pete, with a final howl, broke leash and made for the hatch and the gamblers.

Jack moved all his jars into the pot, and

drew two cards.
"I aint wanting any," said the Captain brazenly; "I'll play with what I have."

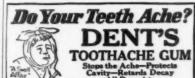
Jack squinted at his two cards; they were

no help to his three kings.

The dog stood with his head at the Captain's shoulder, watching the game from the point of view of a ship's dog who had a taste for frankfurters.

"Yes, yes, Pete," said his master. "Wait awhile."





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"Show down!" roared Jack irritably. It was do or die for his three kings

The Captain reached under his leg, where aces had been tucked away. Somehow his clumsy hands betrayed their secret hidingplace to the keen stare of his opponent.

"Roast your glutton's soul!" screamed the tortured sailor, starting for him. something happened, and the sentence was lost in a rush of foam which, in the sudden broaching-to of the Clippsky, filled her decks with ocean waves. Gamblers, frankfurters and dog were swept off the hatch. Sam, saving himself, realized at once what had happened. He put the wheel up to fill away on her again. Then he heard a wail from over the august 1500. over the quarter. "Save me-save me!"

Two heads were tossing about in the backwash of the Clippsky-one of a frantic man, one of a despairing dog. He threw a life-buoy to the Captain and ran forward, his eyes gutting the deck. There wasn't a frankfurter in sight. Jack was there, with a

furter in signt. Jack was closely death-hold on a ringbolt.
"Get out of there," called Sam. skipper and the dog are overboard."

Jack looked at his mate.

"Blyme, I thought we was at the bottom of the sea," he said.

"Well, ye aint. Come now, show a leg;

we gotta save them!"
"Let the beggar drown, Sammy, im for all the sausages before she made that dive; God's word, I did."

"We gotta save the dog. Stand by your jib sheet, Jack."

Sam ran to the wheel and jammed it hard down

"Hard-a-lee-e-e !"

The schooner filled her decks again, and swung around on the opposite lead. It was some time before she worked alongside the Captain, who with a tight grasp on Pete was marking time with the buoy. Jack, piloting the rescue, stood forward in the nose of the Jack, piloting Clibbsky

Clippsky.

"Keep her up a little, Sam," he shouted;
"don't cut 'em in two. Ease her off a bit
now. That's it; ground 'em in under the
lee; I'll stand by with a line. I may have
to dive for them—heh, Sam? Shake the wind out of her sails-stop her headway, man—stop her, damn her, stop her! Come now, give me a hand with 'em!"

They both ran to the lee rail. The sails flapped like falling boards, and a rain of salt spray showered from windward.

Jack slipped a running bowline over the floating Captain.

"'Eave on 'im, Sam," he cried, and they rolled him inboard with all the viciousness they would have bestowed upon a maneating shark. Pete, limp and grateful, was tenderly handled. Then they carried the Captain aft, and dumped him, like a dead walrus, face down across the wheel-box.

"Leave him lay there a bit," said Sam, 'while the ocean guggles out of him."

The dog, seeming to be no worse for his excursion in the sea, was sniffing around. "Damned if he aint after them sausages!" said Sam.

Sputtering came from the wheel-box "Wh-wh-what's happened, men?" "Whisht, not a word, Sam. Let 'im slobber in 'is hignorance!"

ICEBERGS

(Continued from page 73)

such a thing as that happening to her at the

Her companion listened gravely during her recital. When she had finished, mock alarm spread over the visible portions of

"What will my duties be in this new rôle?" he asked, adding, "I assume I'll have duties, since I'm obviously disqualified to sit around and merely look beautiful."

And she told him. "You've got to talk to me, to sit with me on the porch; since you're not able to dance, we'll sit just outside the windows and let the music come out to we'll be wallflowers together. And I'll read to you if your eye doesn't get better, and I'll help you to walk while you're lameyour foot isn't going to be so bad, I guess. But you can't go away and leave me alone again with all that mob of strange people!'

"Come, come, it can't be as bad as all that," he said with surprising gentleness.

that," he said with surprising school course, 'Oh, it is, It is, It lell you. Of course, it's all my own fault for coming alone, but heaven knows I didn't want to come." Her tennis-racket, she told him, she had not unsheathed; she had not danced once-she almost had, she told him, and related the incident

"A man named Twining. Hostess intro-duced him just as a waltz was beginning. I think he would have asked me, but a group of girls came along just then, and one called, 'Ah, there, Twiny!' so he went off with her. That same girl and her mother came the day I did, and the hostess intro-duced us. A Mrs. and a Miss Jardine." Cherry showed him how they had acknowledged the introduction—the one with a cool nod, the other a haughty stare. Then they had abruptly gone away. "So," finished Cherry, "I never went back to the ballroom

and those are the only people I've met."
"Wont I be somewhat of a broken reed?"
She shook her head. "You'll be some one to talk to," she said. "Why have you stuck it out so long? If

you went home and told your mother-"

"That's the one thing I wouldn't do," she declared firmly. "It would break her heart. She's set so much store by this vacation. Oh, no; I'd rather die than go home."

They had turned in at the driveway to the Imperial and now stopped. The ex-pressman and Cherry helped him down, and holding one leg very stiffly, he was able to walk up the steps, assisted only by the girl, There was upon whom he leaned heavily. a slow walk to the desk, and lorgnettes aplenty were turned upon them. To Cherry's surprise, her companion was un-disturbed, seemed unaware of their scrutiny.

She supported the young man to the desk, and he asked for a room.
"Not a thing left," volunteered the clerk,

looking in amazement from Cherry to her

"Wont you please find some sort of room he can have?" she pleaded. "He can't go around looking for another place while he is unable to walk. Please see if you can't take care of him for the rest of the week.
Only five days. Wont you please try, Mr. Hoskins?

The awful fear of having to relinquish the one thing that would make bearable the rest of her stay made Cherry eloquent. For all his pomposity, Hoskins was in a sense human, and the girl's eyes as she looked up at him held an imploring look that was flattering. "It's been so lonesome for me here," she threw in, "the Landays not coming and all.

Magical name! Hoskins gave a fairly good impersonation of a man starting a

heavy intellect to work.
"There's a room," he began impressively, 'away up near the servants' quarters. It is usually kept for a linen room. But once in a while when we've been very crowded,

we've put a cot in there. If your friend—"
"That'll suit me fine," cut in the youth. "How do I go up, and when do I come down to eat?"

"Just a moment," commanded Hoskins. "Your baggage?"

"Haven't any. It-it evidently didn't get

Frank incredulity settled in Hoskins' eyes. Cherry's own were imploringly upon him. "Then I'll have to ask you for some

him. "Then I'll have to ask you for some—er—security. Without any baggage—"
"Certainly." The youth put his hand in his pocket, fumbled around, withdrew it.
"Sorry," he explained, "I don't seem—"
Something soft and thick was pushed into his hand at the side where Cherry stood. He stopped speaking, and held out to the clerk a little wad of money.
"Will that do?" he asked.
"How much?"—from Hoskins.
"Really. I haven't the faintest idea," came

"How much?"—from Hoskins.

"Really, I haven't the faintest idea," came the bored answer.

Hoskins bent upon him a puzzled scrutiny. Cherry threw herself into the gap. "He isn't himself," she said hastily. "Usually he's—he's lots different from this. But he's all shaken up from his fall." Then she added quickly: "But he'll be all right after topight, after he's had a rest and something. added quickly: "But he'll be all right after tonight, after he's had a rest and something to eat.

"You haven't registered," Hoskins reminded as the porter came to assist the new

"That's so," replied he easily. "But perhaps Miss-er-perhaps this young lady will do it for me. She's developed an amazing knack for helping me today.

Hoskins was not a man with whom a penniless stranger could take liberties of a facetious nature. Cherry realized that.
"His hands are shaken from the fall. I don't think he could hold a pen." She took

the pen, then stopped abruptly. What was his name? But Hoskins' eyes were on her. She hesitated only a second, then wrote the first name that came to her—that of the hero in the book she had just been reading. "John Carstairs, New York."

That is how he went down on the register. He looked on over Cherry's shoulder, and something like a grin came to his distorted face. Cherry hoped he wouldn't be disposed toward facetiousness now. Hoskins wouldn't stand it. But that gentleman was already delivering himself in tones that could be heard throughout the lobby for the benefit of an imposing-looking group that had just come in:

"I'm sorry not to have a better room for our friend, Miss Mercer, but we haven't a thing left. The last suite we had was taken today, taken by,"—he paused for full effect, then rolled the name around on his tongue,—"by Mr. J. Wellington Crabtree of—of—the West."

JOHN CARSTAIRS did not come down that evening. While Cherry was eating her dinner at the little table which she shared with a lady with an expansive glittering bosom, a note was brought to her.

Dear Miss Mercer:

I got a full look in the mirror and speedily decided you'd be a lot better off if I didn't start playing the kid-napee until tomorrow. I've got a compress on my eye now; my bad leg is tenderly propped up in front of me, and

food has been brought me.
Pippa passes! God's in
All's well in the linen room God's in his heaven!

Faithfully "John Carstairs, New York."

P. S. When we meet tomorrow, better call me Jack. I think old Donder and Blitzen at the desk is suspicious. What's your first name? How much money was in that roll? You're a brick!

Cherry wrote back:

Glad you're comfortable. Be more respectful to Hoskins. My name is



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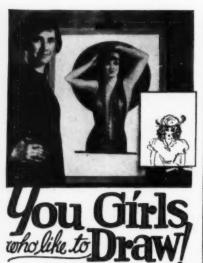


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There was twenty-five dollars in that roll, spending-money for my vacation. You're the first thing I've seen to spend it on.

You're awfully sarcastic and quite impatient and cross, but nobody can say you aren't game!

The two days that followed were Cherry first light-hearted ones at the Imperial. John Carstairs was gay and droll and he made her laugh a great deal. Yet as Thursmade her laugh a great deal. Yet as Thurs-day wore on, a vague feeling of anxiety came over her. She began to be troubled by the irresponsibility of John.

Here he was, without money or baggage, falling in with her plan as though that was what he had originally started out to do. Apparently he had not a care in the world.

After dinner they wandered down toward the golf-course, and Cherry's misgivings got the better of her.

"John, what do you do for a living?" "Oh, a little of everything. Jack of all trades is the classic nomenclature.

"Don't you think you ought to be serious about something. Especially about your work?"

"Why, child, my work is the only thing I am serious about."

'Yet you don't know what it is!" "I do, too." He paused a moment and

Cherry noted the pause. "I'm a mechanic, Cherry," he told her finally. "And a darned good one, too, if I do say it myself."

mechanic! Involuntarily thoughts flashed to her mother's plans for her. "Dear Mother, I am engaged to a mechanic." She wondered how her mother would receive a letter like that, if she would consider it an accomplishment of the pur-pose for which she had planned this vaca-Cherry decided she would not.

"How'd you come to be that?" she asked by way of saying something.

"Born in me, I guess. Got most of my practical training, though, in the army." "What'd you do in the army?"

"Mechanic," he replied laconically.

Friday morning he took her for a ride. Down in the village he had seen for rent a motorcycle with a side-car. "Just be-cause my limp wont let me walk much, is no reason why you should miss your out-ing," he told her, and left her on the porch while he rode down on the bus to bring up the motorcycle.

As she sat there waiting for him, she caught a conversation going on beside her.

Mrs. Orr, the hostess at the hotel, was talking with a group that included the Jardines and Mr. Twining, the youth with whom Cherry had almost danced.

"Never saw a year with so few men," commented Mrs. Jardine.

"It's quality not quantity that counts,"

contributed Twining.

"Right," agreed Miss Jardine, and smiled at him as brightly as if he had uttered a great witticism.

"Probably wouldn't look at him back home," Cherry told herself. "But here a man's a man."

"But tomorrow ought to put a different complexion on things." The hostess was speaking. "Quantity—there'll be two or three men at least in the party; and an abundance of quality—Mr. Crabtree is reputed to be the richest young bachelor in the West." the West.

"Oh, of course none of us can compete with Crabtree," complained Twining. Miss

Jardine smiled at him again.
"We're making the big ball tomorrow night an aviation dance on his account," said Mrs. Orr. "An American ace—but said Mrs. Orr. "An American ace—but everybody knows his record—not a typical rich man's son."

"As if he needed to be anything with all his money!" chimed in Mrs. Jardine, and Cherry's dislike for her mounted.

A handsome motorcar drove up and took away a laughing picnic-party. Those in the Jardine group commented upon the make and beauty of the car. Two more followed it in rapid succession, and were speedily noted and appraised as they sped down the

Immediately in their wake, and with more noise, it seemed to Cherry, than she had ever heard even a motorcycle make, came John Carstairs with his side-seat car. It wasn't a good-looking motorcycle at best, and showed signs of considerable wear. The eyes of all the porch crowd were on it as it swept up in the wake of the magnifi-

flushed. The contrast between Cherry John's equipage and these others was comi-cally apparent. And as she walked primly down the porch steps, she was aware that the amused eyes of the Jardine contingent were upon her. She caught distinctly a remark ending: "—seems to have staked her claim.

"Madame, the Rolls," John announced with a low bow and an elaborate flourish.

"Thought I wouldn't be able to get it," he continued in tones perfectly audible to the highly interested watchers. "Couple of the highly interested watchers. "Couple of fellows wanted it, but I grabbed it and they scorned to hit a cripple." He grinned behind the court-plaster.

HAT afternoon there were show stunts THAT afternoon there were snow by an aviator. All the hotel came to the field for the event. All the hotel colony Cherry and John Carstairs walked down that way shortly after the hour when the flight was to have started. A man came hurrying out, worried.

"McWalters gone up yet?" asked John.
"Can't go up," answered the man. "Something wrong with the plane. Got to go to the village for more help."

Carstairs' glance quickened; his easy-going attitude dropped from him like a cloak.

"Let me have a look at it. I've had a lot of experience with such things.

"We need the most expert help we can said the get, and quick as we can get it," said the man doubtfully. "But go on in if you think man doubtfully. "But go on in if you think you can help," he continued, while he himself hopped into a little car and headed for the village.

They went inside. Cherry was given a seat in the side-lines and John limped out into the field. McWalters turned, and from where she sat Cherry saw him start with surprise, and then his hand and John Carstairs' met in a hearty clasp. After that the men worked for twenty minutes, and then, amid lusty cheering, McWalters got away to a beautiful start and the afternoon was on. A vague feeling of injustice settled on Cherry, that all the applause was for the ace and none for the man who had made the flight possible.

Smudgy and greasy, John made his way back across the field.

"Let's stay and watch McWalters' stunts," he told her, while machinists from around the tool-box eyed him with respectful in-terest. "A fine fellow, McWalters," com-mented John. "I was his machinist when I first went in the service.

All the way back to the hotel John talked nothing but engines and motors. Cherry didn't understand half of it, but that didn't seem to bother John. They passed Mrs. Jardine and her daughter, the latter walking with Twiny. They might not have existed, so far as John Carstairs was concerned. And as they stepped to their half of the roadway, John was saying in loud tones to Cherry:

"Didn't I tell you I was a darned good mechanic, Cherry? Didn't I?" His face was flushed and held an odd look of pride.

Miss Jardine heard, recognized the star

mechanic of the day, decided he was not the

sort one knows, and passed up the walk beside the bored-appearing Twiny.

After dinner they strolled out again to their favorite bench beside the first tee. On the way down the walk they had to step aside for a small pyramid of trunks just dumped by the expressman—the same pressman who had brought John to the Imperial. The trunks were fast being carin by the porters.

"'J. Wellington Crabtree,' " Cherry read aloud. "What a mouthful of name!" "Poor devil!" agreed John. "He's the guest of honor tomorrow night."

She repeated what she had heard in the morning. "He's not only a famous ace, but a famous bachelor and very, very eligible, Mrs. Orr said. That's why the big ball is to be given for him tomorrow night.'

"Because he's a famous bachelor or be-cause he's a famous ace?"
"I think, John,"—Cherry's face was solemn and she stopped short where she stood and emphasized her remarks with little nods of her head,—"it's because he's rich—awfully rich."

"There, there, don't get all heated up against Crabtree just because of those peo-ple. He's probably the Crabtree I knew in Not a half-bad sort, really. Only, the army. the army. Not a nan-bad sort, really. Only, he was Jack Crabtree then—no J. Wellington. That's his family's doings. And speaking of riches, Cherry," he went on quickly, "that reminds me; I've wired for some money. Don't let me forget tomorrow to give you back your roll."

"You don't need to. I've got my ticket

H^E smiled and an indescribable feeling of panic came over Cherry. His smile was a thing to rejoice over. And after to-

morrow she wouldn't see it again.
"You've been awfully good to me," she faltered. "I don't know how I'd have finished this vacation without you. remember it always." I-I'll

They were walking back to the hotel ow. The moonlight was entrancing, the air now. balmy. Couples passed up and down, arm in arm; waltz music drifted out from the An utter content fell upon Cherry. But suddenly, as they mounted the steps, romance fled from her mind and reality entered with a thump.

"You can't dance tomorrow night," she sped. "You—you haven't any evening gasped. clothes!"

He laughed at her concern. "Don't let that trouble you," he reassured. "I'll borrow some from the waiters. Decent fellow, one of those waiters, working his way through college and all that. He'll lend me his, I know, if I ask him."

All Saturday morning they guarded his bad leg, carefully conserving it for the evening. Preparations for the dance were going on all around them. It was to be the Decorations were gala night of the season. Decorations were up in the ballroom. A huge airplane of gilded cardboard hung from the chandelier. Ladies, old and young, especially the mothers of young ladies, were fluttering about, and the atmosphere was one of suppressed excitement.

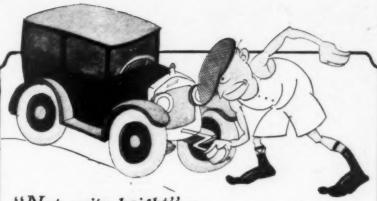
"We can thank J. Wellington Crabtree for tonight," gayly said Cherry to John as they sat on the piazza after luncheon.

"Then we'll give him a vote of thanks and call him a good old scout," declared John.

"By the way, I don't think he's arrived vet. I don't see anyone around who might

"Oh. he's not so distinguished-looking,' said John in tones that drew Cherry's searching glance. Could it be that John was jealous of the guest of honor? She hastened to reassure him.

"For my part, I don't care whether he ever comes or not. But I just wouldn't



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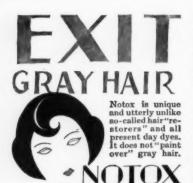


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have been able to stand it here today without you, John Carstairs. Everybody so happy and busy and looking forward to tonight."

"You'd be looking forward to tonight too." "Yes-to being a wallflower, to sitting alone and looking on, my feet aching to dance, my heart aching with lonesomeness." And John smiled the smile that was the

worst heartache of all. "What're you going to do tomorrow when

I go?" she asked wistfully.
"Tomorrow? Oh, tomorrow's another I-I hope tomorrow to have a date

with my girl."

His girl! The day went black for Cherry.

His girl! The death of joy, the end of dreams!

She strove to say something, but no words

She strove to say something, but no words came. She merely sat looking at John.
"I'll tell you all about it tonight," said he, unaware of the havoc he had wrought.
"Yes, do," answered she, in her voice much of the icy quality affected by the ladies at the Imperial. Shortly afterward she excused herself, thought she'd lie down for a while. Immediately John rose.
"And I think I'll go to my linen-room."

"And I think I'll go to my linen-room," he said, "to pack."
"To pack!" Cherry cried, then laughed in

"To pack!" Cherry cried, then laughed in spite of herself. He had nothing to pack. As they approached the desk, a tall, goodlooking young man stood registering. looking young man stood registering. He was accompanied by another, apparently a valet. Several porters stood obsequiously about, laden with bags. Hoskins' face wore a rapt look; his manner had a touch of grandeur as he handed the young man the pen.

"J. Wellington Crabtree," Cherry thought, and turned to tell John Carstairs. But that gentleman had disappeared. She waited, irresolute. Not a sign of him anywhere.

HE orchestra was beginning to play just THE orchestra was beginning to pay as she came down. Suppressed excitement everywhere. Even the Jardines seemed caught by it. Miss Jardine's features were —for them—lit up, and her mother wore a pleasantly preoccupied air. It seemed years since the night Cherry had been introduced to them.

Mrs. Orr, in passing, nodded to Miss Jardine. "Hope you'll have the first dance with him," she said.

A table for two was set conspicuously in A table for two was set conspicuously in the center of the dining-room. Dinner was half over, and yet it remained unoccupied. Soft eyes, and hard, feverish glances and calculating ones, were turned upon it. Then calculating ones, were turned upon it. Then suddenly he came—the young man Cherry

had seen registering.
"Yes, looks as if he could have a good time even here among the icebergs," mused

"Crabtree's cousin. Secretary of his or something. Always travels with him." A man at a table back of Cherry was speaking.

"Where's Crabtree?" asked another.

"Got here late, I hear, and dining in his

Cherry could see nothing of John Car-stairs—not that she was expecting to. She did hope he would get something to eat, and wondered how long it took waiters to get through their work and out of their clothes.

One window of the ballroom opened upon the most secluded corner of the piazza. was here Cherry had promised to wait for John. She herself had suggested it. "I'll see how the clothes fit him," she thought "I don't want him to be a laughing-stock before these people."

The orchestra was tuning up. Gay voices floated out through the windows; rich per-fumes mingled with the natural fragrance of the night. Then the first strains of music. Ecstasy rose in Cherry's heart. She wished John would hurry.



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And suddenly there he was! Cherry quickly made the mental notation that the waiter, whoever he was, must have been out of the ordinary, for the evening clothes were perfection. And the court-plaster was removed from John's face—the long scratches had faded into tiny lines. She had not thought he could look so handsome. That wretched other girl!

She rose, eager to go in, but John laid a detaining hand on her arm and drew her back into the shadows.

He surveyed her musingly, a peculiar look in his eyes. "Tell me, Cherry," he said finally, "have I acquitted myself well? How do you think I've played the part?"
"The part? What part?"
"Why, the kidnapee, of course."

"Why, the kinnapee, of course."
She smiled—sadly.
"You've been a dear, John." Her voice choked. "Without you I'd have died."
"Then you'd do it all over again? The kidnaping and nursing and all?"
She nodded and hoped he wouldn't make her talk. He continued:

her talk. He continued: "Because if you're willing, I want to make it a permanent thing, Cherry—only on a fifty-fifty basis. Will you, dear?"

"I to do the kidnaping and you the nurs-ing—for always," he went on. "Do you think you could care enough?" There was no hint of mockery now in "Do you

his eyes, nothing but dead serious earnest. Still Cherry must be sure.

"You mean?"

"I love you. I want you to take care of me always. Say it isn't too big a job. Say you'll do it, dear."

His strong, firm hands reached for hers,

but she quickly withdrew her own.

"What about that girl?" she asked stonily.

"Girl? What girl?" he asked, perplexed.

"The girl you were going to see tomor-

"O-o-h!" He smiled his winning smile. "O-o-h!" He smiled his winning smile.
"Perhaps I was a little premature about that," he said, "but from something you said I'd begun to hope that by tomorrow I'd have a girl. Will I, Cherry?"
"Y-yes," said Cherry. "On-only I don't

know your name-or-anything about you-

"I'll tell you," began John, and tried to

draw her head to his shoulder.
"No! No!" Cherry held him back.
"I don't know who you are—and I," voice swelled tremulously-"and I don't care either."

A dance was ending. Cherry, her heart beating high, stood with John at the long, open window. Dimly she was conscious of seeing Miss Jardine go by on the arm

"The next dance will be ours," John said,
"but I'll have to leave you for a few minutes first." He placed a chair for her just
beside the window, and with a backward glance was gone.

waited-waited a little longer. Finally she began to worry. John's few minutes were such long ones. She looked in through the window.

People were crowding around some one

-polite-looking, interested groups. "Crabtree's arrived." It was a voice inside the window. the same young man who had sat at the table opposite her at din-ner. He was talking to a girl. "I'll introner. He was talking to a girl. "I'll intro-duce him as soon as we can get near him. Everybody wants to meet him."

CHERRY couldn't help contrasting J. Wellington Crabtree's reception with the one accorded herself—or the one bestowed upon John Carstairs. Poor John, everybody had looked right through him just as they had through herself. Prominently among the crowd fluttered Mrs. Jardine and her daughter, accompanied by the blasé Twiny.



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"She'll drop you, Twiny, for Mr. Crab-tree if she gets a chance. She's hoping for the first dance with him," said Cherry to herself and wondered why John didn't come.

Finally the orchestra struck up-even the music had been stilled that introductions might be unhampered. The crowd thinned around the edges and began to disintegrate into couples. Where was John? He had promised she should have every dance.

Just then the groups surrounding the lion fell back and the soft-eyed maidens regis-tered a look of disappointment. Cherry wondered what had happened, and stepped in through the window. She strained for a look at Mr. Crabtree.

And as the groups opened, as the crowd separated to let him pass, she saw him—J. Wellington Crabtree, alias John Carstairs!

Cherry's heart stood still.

Straight toward her he came, out of the crowd that had gathered to meet him. In and out around the dancers, past scores of eyes that lingeringly sought to detain him, he came swiftly over to where she stood by the window and held out his arms. At the end of the dance, his cousin came up to them.

"I want to be presented." He smiled at And later: "Jack tells me you've Cherry. been Good Samaritan to him, Miss Mercer. was better than he deserved-running off from us, as usual, without money or clothes. All he did was send a telegram that he'd meet us Saturday—"

"My dear Stoddard," John was drawling, "if you'd ever been kidnaped, you'd realize—" He stopped as an influx of peo-He stopped as an influx of peo-

ple bore down on them.

"Oh, Mr. Crabtree, to think of your being here all week and not a soul taking the slightest notice of you!"

"You're wrong there." John answered. Cherry didn't hear what else he said, for a voice was sounding in her ears.

"Miss Mercer, it was unkind of you not to tell us." Cherry turned to look into the reproachful face of Mrs. Jardine. "Yes, indeed, we could have had some nice parties together," simpered Miss Jar-

Happily Cherry stood by. She marveled at how very much icebergs could melt.

compelling something drew her gaze to the door. On tiptoe, peering over the heads of the crowd, was Hoskins. His stricken face held all the puzzlement of all the ages. Cherry smiled. Again she heard his astonished "Alone?" addressed to her-Again she heard self. Again she saw his face freeze, his glance grow cold at John's irresponsible facetious-ness; once more she heard him announcing that there wasn't a better room for John because everything had been reserved for J. Wellington Crabtree. Poor Hoskins! How funny his face looked now. How John had laughed at her fear of him!

BUT John was speaking. He was smiling at the crowd—his wonderful, ingratiating smile. "He'd get by with anybody, even if he was only a mechanic," thought Cherry quickly.

"And it's really awfully nice of you. appreciate the honor you do me more than I can say. But I shall not be able to accept any invitations. You see, I'm going to be married-perhaps tomorrow-and-

Softly, sweetly, tenderly, the cadences of the waltz rose and fell. John's arms reached for Cherry's waist. One by one the lights went out, leaving the room in a rosy twilight glow. The dancers dreamily glided, turned and swayed.

For the last few bars the lights went entirely out and the room was in a dusky gloom.

"Kiss me, Cherry," said J. Wellington Crabtree. And Cherry, loving, honoring obeyed.

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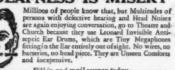
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THE HOUSE OF THE BLACK-EYED SUSANS

(Continued from page 91)

"I reckon," he said, "Mrs. Plummer has maybe a few days more to live. Moving her would kill her straight away.

her would kill her straight away."

There was a terrible silence. The Captain was the first to break it. "Settle it between you," he said. "I've got my ship to see to, and them six Sullivan Island boys. I'll stand by, this night, and sail tomorrow morning, if there is a morning for any of us. I can't say fairer."

orning, if there is a mo-orning, if there is a mo-i. I can't say fairer."

"I owe a duty to my future wife," was lackett's contribution. "I couldn't in the kept smiling."

"Yeadless to say," Blackett's contribution. reason be expected—" nervously as he spoke. I'd rather stay than go, but-"

Ireland had taken no part in the talk. He was standing with his hands in his pockets, a sandy, ordinary youngster, apparently unmoved by the tremendous issues of the situation—not even perceiving them, it seemed. "I'm staying," he remarked casually, and dusted a wad of drifting ashes from his

'I'll leave you a boat," said the Captain. "I can't leave you a crew; they'd only do what Plummer's boys did."

"If it was a question of saving life, no one would be readier—but in this case—a few days only-why, it stands to reason, repeated Blackett. "Three whites and six narepeated Blackett. Three whites and six vives, who might live forty or fifty years each—against a woman who hasn't a week to live anyhow. But of course," he went on hastily, "it's very praiseworthy of you, Ireland—not having any ties, it's—"
"I'm married two years," said Ireland.

"If I went home to my wife and told her, she'd spit in my face." Without noticing Blackett further, he went into the house. The Captain caught him back as he crossed the threshold. "Sunup tomorrow," he said. 'Can't give you more. Come if you're coming, by then."

"Don't reckon on it," answered Ireland.

"Look after your ship."

"Blast the ship! If it wasn't—"

There's no use waiting, Cap.

So long."

They did not look at one another as they parted. Cantrell was blowing his nose furiously, as he went down the path. Blackett followed him, humming, to show his complete detachment from the whole foolish affair. Within the house, Ireland smiled, a trifle grimly, and shook his fingers. Can-trell had gripped his hand so hard that the blood was almost driven out.

Y OU don't mean to say you're stopping?" I demanded Suzanne, lifting her dark, Spanish-coiffed head from the pillow.

'Why not?" answered Ireland, the sandy the unromantic, the skinny-the not at all like any sort of hero. He took a chair, and pulled out his pipe. "Mind smoking?" he asked.

"You've no call to stop!"

Ireland wasn't arguing the point. He pressed the tobacco down into his pipe bowl, "Been here long? and asked her:

"Year and a half," she said dreamily. "A bit after the field broke out, we came here. I and Plummer. My third, you know.

"Do well out of it?"

"Yes. We had a pretty fair clean-up. It got away to the bank all right. Lucky
—would have been melted here." She laughed a somewhat drugged laugh.

Ireland watched her. She seemed sleepy. He got up and walked quietly here and there, arranging a bed in an adjoining room, making himself at home. He was deft in his ways, clearly a handy man about a

"You're married," she said suddenly from her couch.

Ireland found some difficulty in answer-

ing her. Clarie, his wife! Clarie, who certainly would not have spat upon him, as he too graphically had declared, no matter whom he had deserted, or why. Clarie, who would watch the steamers coming through Sydney Heads in vain!

"You're a great little guesser," was his delayed reply.

Her next words showed her to be something more.

"I can tell you," she said, "it's a bad thing for a pretty girl to be left a widow young. . .

"I was," she added presently. The history of Black-eyed Susan was Australian property.

"You'd better not stay," was her next word.

"Oh, yes, I think I will, Mrs. Plummer." "You can't stop her playing up."
"No, that's true."

"Well, God bless my soul and body, man," (to paraphrase the stronger expletives of Suzanne), "what do you think you're going to do?"

"Going to stick to you, Mrs. Plummer," said Ireland, with a long draw at the fi-

nally lighted pipe.

Being Australians both, they uttered no more of all that was in their minds. But both understood.

The old black woman, Mahina, dropped her fan, laid her head down, and in spite of the sinister vibrations that kept her thin body shaking on the floor, slept, with a sigh

of almost pitiful relief.
"Well," said Suzanne later, "I can't stop you, so I'll take it. And God knows, it's no way to die, without a soul near you only a nigger. But—you ought to go back to her."

On that, she relaxed, and like Mahina, sank to sleep.

RELAND had no thought of sleeping, even if the heart-shaking shots from the cone would have allowed it. The air was heavy with sulphur; the trembling of earth below seemed on the increase. Once, a horrible bellow came from above, so loud as to strike Suzanne from her heavy, drugged slumber. She lifted her head. The night was come; Ireland had lit a lamp, but its faint shine was scarcely noticeable in the red glare that stole through the opened shutters.

"Black-eyed Susan, they always called she said.

He saw that she was wandering a little, and humored her. "Yes," he said encouragingly.

"But my name was Suzanne, always. was my mother's name. She was French."

"My wife's grandmother was Suzanne, o. I suppose there are plenty," he answered her, for the want of something to

She lay and looked at him for a moment under those deep eyelids of hers—the eyelids of a passionate woman.
"What was her mother's name?" she

asked.

Ireland flushed, and moved uneasily. "I I don't know," he answered reluctantly. "She was an adopted child-adopted by an old lady in Brisbane, Mrs. Clara Waters

"An old devil," said Suzanne, suddenly and surprisingly.

"Delirious," thought Ireland. he agreed.

"How old is she? Twenty?"

"Nineteen. Shall I get you a drink of

"Not yet," said Suzanne. "I want to think." She covered her eyes with her hands, and lay still.

An hour passed. Ireland was awakened



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from an uneasy doze into which he had fallen, by a sudden, brassy clang. The heavy clock had fallen, apparently of its own volition, from a stand, and lay broken on the floor. Suzanne's glass jug, at the same moment, slid from the table into her Something broke loudly in the lap. kitchen; and Ireland, rising to his feet, became conscious that the room was not steady. He staggered, and caught at the dining-table. It slid to meet him, pinning him against the wall.

He looked at the suspended lamp; it was swinging like a pendulum, and the glass prisms on it jangled fiercely.

"Earthquake," he thought, with a fierce, instinctive desire to rush out of the house—anywhere, away from those threatening walls.

The lamp swung slowly now; its prisms were ceasing to ring upon each other. the mind of Ireland some wild impulse, too, was slowing down, some jangling thought was silenced. Perhaps the earthquake had shaken his soul, as it shook the little house. If so, the shock was past. In his mind two words were sounding now, slowly, like church-bells, two words, over and over:

"Clarie, good-by!"

SUZANNE was staring at him with wide eyes. He thought he had never seen eyes so large and dark, unless in his own baby -oddly, it had missed its mother's russet hair and blue eyes, and his own pervading sandiness; it was a dusky, pretty thing, with the tiniest hands and feet. He'd never see those feet learn to run across the floor, now. Stop! Don't think!

"Can I do anything for you?" he asked the woman.

"Yes," said Suzanne. "Give me my bottle of drops.'

"What for?"

"They quiet you," she said, watching him closely

Ireland had not spent that year in the medical schools for nothing.

"I'll measure it," he told her, picking up the bottle, and tilting it over a glass. was a preparation of opium and other drugs, scarce strong enough to be dangerous, but he did not intend to run any chances.

He took the glass from Suzanne; she had scarcely touched it, but he saw her close her eyes and lie still, the little hands, with their freight of rings, resting quietly on the lace of her gown. Then he went over to the bookcase and began looking for something to read. Reading might be ab-surd under the circumstances, but anything was allowable that kept one from thought.

There were a few popular novels; he had read them all. There were some technical handbooks, mostly about gold-mining; he didn't want to read those. What else? Scott's last voyage of discovery. He knew it, but it would serve.

Under the lamp, that had not yet quite settled down from its violent swinging, he sat, and leafed over the pages. He had always admired Scott and grudged, bitterly, Amundsen's snatched victory. He read and read on. It was good stuff. Better than Suzanne's drops of forget ulness. . . . Suzanne's drops of forgetiulness. . . . By the way, what had she been up to?

He lifted his eyes from the book, and saw her watching him.

"Are you in pain?" he asked.
She shook her head. "That's fine," she offered surprisingly. He had not thought her to be of the reading kind.

"It is-very fine. Are you fond of that sort of thing?" he asked, his finger at the

death of Oates,
"Who, me?" she asked. "I'm not much of a one for reading, never was. But I read that. My second husband, he was read it, and pick out the places. I thought a lot of my second, for a while. I never was one to stick to anyone overlong."

There was silence again for a while-

silence broken only by the growing rumble and rumor of the mountain overhead.

"It's gettin' louder," she said. Ireland knew that, had known it for some time. "I wish," she said, "I wish it would have let one go quiet. I was going quiet. I'd have had another week or two—just the trees and the flowers outside, and the bit of sky, and the sea sounding pleasant down say, and the sea sounding pleasant down below; and Mahina there to do for me, and lay me out decently. I didn't think, times when I was down in Sydney and on the Tanami and when these other fields broke out—I didn't think I'd have that quiet end. Things were bad sometimes, the property of them and there were men cruel, the best of them; and there was trouble, and divorcing; and I've broke my heart, as often as they broke theirs. And you can lose your looks, and die poor, or you can have an accident. . . . I was always afraid of—things—things happening to me. But none of them did."

"Didn't somebody once say, 'I've had lots of trouble, in my life, but most of it never happened?" asked Ireland, idly making

conversation.

She took no notice. "I'd have liked to go quiet," she said heavily, and flung her arms about. The unkind forties had treated Black-eyed Susan not so unkindly; her wrists, where the lace fell away, were white, round, like the wrists of a girl. There was vitality in her yet, life, burning strong, not readily to be extinguished.

"You may very well have your wish," said Ireland; "you're taking too black a view. There's no use mincing matters; you can't get well, but you may last a week or two, and for all you or I can say, the volcano up there may hold off for longer than that. I hope it does."

It was plain speech, but here, on the hip of the burning mountain, alone with Suzanne, the sleeping native, and Death, smooth sayings seemed to have no place.

"Don't I know that?" she answered him sharply, almost fiercely. "Don't I know I could hold on-I could have the sun, the smells and looks of things, maybe a bit longer." She fell silent. Ireland looked at her, somewhat puzzled.

She had been lying with her head turned toward the shadows. Presently she moved a little; he could see her eyes. There was an indefinable change in them; since she last looked at him, something had gone out of Black-eyed Susan or was it that something had come to her?

"I'll put it straight," she said. "Are you going, or staying?

"Staying. We arranged that already, and you agreed."

"You wont go and leave me?"

"You know I wont," he answered, uncertain as to her meaning but sure of his

"I told you," she warned him, "that it's

He winced at that, but answered pa-tiently: "She has her child, if anything happens to me."

"I had mine-until the lawyers took her, and gave her to an old devil to bring up mind me; have your sleep."

"I can't sleep."

"I can; I'm going to. You go on reading, read me wherever you are; it'll help me to

HE took the book again, and read of the death of Oates, the "very gallant gentleman:" of how he went forth, silent, into the snow, and laid down his life to save those who could not be saved; of how Scott and his other gallant gentlemen died also; of the records found long after. . . .

It was getting very late. Ireland laid down the book. Was she asleep? She had been moving restlessly for some time, dragging at her red chain as if it oppressed her
—the mascot that she had carried through so many stormy years, that had surely brought her, in the end, no great luck. For some time, however, she had been quiet. He looked at her. She was certainly asleep,

He yawned; an immense fatigue had seized him. Above, Compass grumbled un-availingly; the fire-pot underfoot boiled unheeded, as he dropped on the sofa, and sank

HE woke to a raw glare of daylight, and Mahina wailing like a wolf beside him. "O-hoo, o-hoo!" she cried, beating her head upon the mats. "Why Mahina sleep? Why Mahina not look out? She die, she die!"

"Lord God!" said Ireland to himself. He was on his feet in an instant. Suzanne was not lying as he had left her; her body was twisted oddly, and her face set in a mask of agony. Her eyes told him that Mahina had spoken the truth.

"What's happened?" he asked, dazed by

the sudden shock.

Mahina, still crying, thrust her fingers between Suzanne's rouged lips, and pulled forth the end of a broken necklace. From the corners of the mouth, like drops of blood, there fell two Black-eyed Susan

"He poison," she sobbed. "He very bad

poison. Everyone know that but the white man; all the white man fool. Yesterday I think she want to drink too much medicine; I take him away. Den she want to take this, I think, so I try to steal him, but she not letting me. Ohoo! Ohoo!"
What was left of the "mascot" that

Suzanne had carried through her stormy days, that had enabled her to keep con-stantly, at her fingers' ends, the keys of life and death, dropped rattling on the floor.

About it, before she went where the gal-lant gentleman Oates had gone, she had twisted a scrap of paper. Ireland unfolded the scrap and read:

"She's my daughter. Go back and take better care of her than they ever took of

Ireland and Clarie his wife are "station people" now, than which there is no prouder position in Australia. Mahina they have made a princess among her own island folk. For the will of Suzanne, found among the papers that Ireland hurriedly collected carried away, left to her stranger daughter all she owned, and that included Plummer's "shammy" of gold, besides his properties of various sorts scattered over half the Sullivan Islands.

In North Queensland the grass that carries the beautiful deadly seeds of the Black-eyed Susan is common; but not a leaf is ever seen about the Irelands' homestead. The master has it constantly rooted out; he says it is dangerous.

On Compass Island, the house that was Susan's home and crown is easiled with layer.

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THE TERROR OF THE ROAD

(Continued from page 81)

That crowd like river suck my wife right into train, an' door he close! I push an' into train, an' door he close! I push an' punch—I pretty mad! Get close to door, an' through the glass I see my little oldwoman's face, so white as death! Then she is gone!

pretty scared. What will she do? She speak no English; she get crazy! How I find her? I don't know. I look for guard, big busy man who stand an' push more crowds of people into trains. I grab his crowds of people into trains. I grab his arm an' pull him down an' shout in ear about my wife. He say that I must ask po-lice. But where police? I grab my bags an' pull an' fight away from crowd. I find some stairs that say, "To Street." An' I run up. My God, how cold! Fine air for me, like Ioway! My head get clear. I look an' look till see police man—nice one, young When he see how scared I am, he hold my hand, make whole street wait till he can my hand, make whole street wait till he can hear my trouble. Then he say to me to go in station an' find woman who helps all lost people there. I take my bags an' run like hell. I go an' go, an' ask an' ask, until I find her. She take me in little room an' hear my story. She kind woman. She say:

"We will find your wife, but we can't do it right away. You must be quiet. Now sit down." She make me tell about my wife—how small she is, an' how she look, what clothes she wear. An' then she telephone police. "An', now," she say, "police will watch at every station for your wife. They find her sure. So you must wait." I wait an' wait in that small room, an' try to think where is my wife. I can do nothing, nothing! Damn! In Ioway it not so bad. Storm come in winter-plenty snow-wind blow like hell-all night I work to save our cattle. Not so bad. Here I can do nothing, nothing! I get crazy. I can't stay. She say: "Now you shall come with me to our main office. There we hear when she is found."

We go. She ask me have some supper. I can't eat. We come to office. I bring out my money-bag an' wish send money to police. She smile at me an' say, no good. I wait an' wait, hear telephone, jump up, but it is not my wife. Some lost peoples come in room—first, two children, girl an' boy—then one old woman—not my wife. I ask an' beg them telephone. They do so; they try many things. I go an' look out doors Damn' cold! Maybe she be freezing now! I come back an' try be quiet. Night get —later—later. Then I jump up quick again, for I hear telephone once more.

They think they find her now, they say, but my old woman is so cold they take her to hospital. So I go. I come into that hospital, very big-they take me up to big long room with many beds. They point to one. I see my wife, an' now I am so glad I run. I think how happy she will be. I come to bed. She lie quite still, my little old woman. Only eyes, they very wild—keep moving. They move now to me—but don't be happy—only crazy! She don't know me! I sit down. I cry like baby—wait an' wait. A doctor come an' say to me my wife wont die, be better soon. Yes, but maybe she be crazy! Pretty soon she shut her eyes. That doctor take me for some supper. I come back an' sit by bed. My little old woman is asleep, an' maybe I am sleeping, too.

BUT then I awake again, quite quickly. Some one grab my arm. My wife is lying crazy there an' talking now about that night. She think she is in subway still. I listen an' I make some pictures, how she go. know my wife, just how she is-she don't holler when she scared; she keep quiet like one mouse. An' so in subway no one see her. Soon train stop an' crowd come pushing, push her out into some station. She is pushed an' pushed along, an' now so scared she is most crazy. She is running—she is looking for some train to take her back. She speak no English; she can't ask—so she is pushed in other train, an' noise like devils comes again. She can't hear nothing but that noise; it fill her head an' make her wild. An' now she don't know where she go! She like



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old hen who run around-she can't get outthat noise wont stop! She scared she go so deep in ground she never will come up again! I guess she go in subways all around under New York. An' never holler—always quiet. She is getting sick an' cold.

Now she is in nice, warm, bed, but she is shaking still with cold, an' she talk crazy, an' I know she think she down in subway still. How we wake her up again? She may be crazy all her life, in subways running round an' round! How we fix her so she know? In morning doctor come again, an' he tell me my little old woman must lie still for many days. So I must wait. But I can't wait. This boat, he going pretty soon. While I try think, to What shall I do? hospital comes that smart woman who is helping all lost people-an' she help us once again. She go see doctor on this boat an' find nice little hospital here. She ask him, will he take my wife? Old woman only scared, she says, an' in few days all right again. So doctor come an' look at her, an' again. So doctor come an look as say: "Yes, bring her to the boat."

So she is here. Much better now (her hus-

band ended quietly).

As though ashamed of the feeling he'd shown, with slow deliberation he struck a match and lit his pipe. "In hospital the doctor here give medicine to make her quiet, an' last night in good, long sleep her mind come out of subway now. She wake up in nice warm bed an' see me, an' she grab my arm an' ask me tell her what has happen. But I don't tell her very much. An' here on boat she have good rest. She pretty scared of traveling still, but soon she know she will be home."

We went into the ship's hospital then, and in that small quiet place we found his little old woman. She was lying very still; and though the marks of that great fear, with which she had been so stricken, were still to be seen on her brown wrinkled face, most of the terror was gone from her eyes. Only, as the little man came to the bed and took her hand, and spoke to her in their mother tongue, a gleam of reminiscence came -a flash and a quiver. Then it was gone, and she asked him something.

"You see?" he said, looking up with a nile. "She ask how soon she will be smile.

home."

THE MORAL REVOLT

(Continued from page 45)

with the thought and subject of drink, be-came grossly incontinent with respect to drink, and could for a long time think and talk of nothing else-with the sole difference that they talked of and sought drink openly, whereas they seek an outlet to sex obsessions secretly and in fear. It is the ame reason that causes hundreds of Americans, when they land in Europe, where they can have all the drink they want, to make swine of themselves, in an orgy of release which satisfies something within them that many believe should never have been denied in the first place by anything save their own individual sense of decency, moderation and restraint, voluntarily functioning.

Such prohibitions and restraints work best when they come from within, as the fruit of education and culture. When imposed from without, whether in drink or sex, the ratio of safety to repression is about what you get when you plug the spout of a boiling tea-kettle, or hang a block of New England granite on the safety valve of a functioning steam-engine. This is not to say that steam should not be controlled, or that it should be allowed to go aimlessly to waste. It should be controlled, and used, and made serviceable and safe. But we fail to make it so.

AN attitude toward Prohibition is based on whether one believes human beings can be educated to decency and to voluntary restraint in the indulgence of an appetite, or that they must be restrained by force and law. An attitude toward the traditional sex taboos is based on precisely the same choice.

Many good people honestly believe that we are adopting the wrong way to make ourselves temperate and decent. Drinking is not intrinsically a sin, but with a stupid want of discrimination and judgment, we have pronounced it so, and in our minds have made it so-and a terrible social corruption has resulted, they think, far worse than what we had before.

By the same token sex is not a sin; the desire of a man for a woman, and of a woman for a man, is not a sin; but we have hedged the thing about with restric-city..... this up so long that we have largely lost

passed, the American people became obsessed our ability to thin!. in terms of a genuine with the thought and subject of drink, becall a genuine sex morality "immorality" if anyone had the fortitude to practice it openly today

The most monstrous feature of this tragedy is that the groping, bewildered, seething mass of people who are trying in their own way to come at a moral substitute for this false morality are unable to think their way through. The best that most of them are able to do in breaking away from the old system is to achieve a spurious morality themselves, just as Americans abroad, by rushing to the "American bar" in Paris or London, only to make beasts of them-selves, achieve a spurious "freedom."

SOME persons credit me with advocating some such thing as that in sex. Nothing could be further from my thought. I simply record the facts. In sex conduct we are today going through the spurious freedom phase; in the first childish exhilaration of revolt, we are grossly misbehaving. But I think we shall some day achieve something in sex very far removed from all this—something governed by authentic tastes, and free but educated preferences—a genuine culture, in short Neither in our past superstitious restraint, nor in our present ill-considered license, have we ever had such a thing; but of the two conditions, the first seems to me to have been the more deadly, the more hopeless, the more morally vitiating of the two. The inability of our "moral" fanatics to do any straight thinking about this matter amply indicates how people atrophy in a country that takes full charge of the personal morals of its citizens.

I related a certain recent case to a minister of my acquaintance. "It is perfectly obvious," said the reverend gentleman, "what the remedy is. Our young people should be chaperoned!" That was all he could contribute. The notion that the presence of a chaperon would not have changed the mental and moral condition of those children did not seem to occur to him.

His prescription was worthless. He over-looked the deeper fact that the children of whom I spoke were obsessed with sex, and that that obsession was patently the fruit of the conditions in which, they had always lived. They must satisfy the starved something, the warped and crippled something, the twisted something, that had taken possession of them. For this they were not re-

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How society has created it I have told with some detail in "The Revolt of Modern Youth." I here content myself with suggesting this thought: We have a social or-der which, in deferring marriage till the twenties or later, takes no count of the fact that sexual maturity arrives in the teens. It can be sublimated under a proper system of education, in athletics, in music, in dancing, in study and intellectual growth, and it need not seek a specifically sexual outlet. Our educational system should proceed as much on this idea as possible. I know the principal of an excellent coeducational private school, a boarding school, who never has any trouble with the sex problem among his students. He turns the trick, not by making rules to be broken, but simply running the school under a system student self-government, and by so allotting the work of the school that every individual student is kept normally busy and occupied in healthful pursuits every hour of the day.

We have, however, to remember that in spite of such safeguards and such sublimation of the developing sex life of the young, the tendency to seek a sex outlet is often very marked, and neither in our educational system nor in our moral code do we intelligently cope with this fact. We fall back on easy and established social prohibitions of the sort many of the younger generation

defy so frankly.

I have been receiving a good many let-ters of late asking me how I reconcile some of the views I am expressing in these articles with the Bible. I have one short and conclusive answer to that question. don't reconcile them with the Bible. More-over I don't see why I should. Those of my views which are in accord with Holy Writ speak for themselves. Those which are not have to be classed with evolution, the roundness of the earth, and other matters which were not factors in the speculative thought of the ancient Jews. To say that modern sociology must deal with modern facts is in no sense to flout or discount the Bible. It is, rather, to interpret that Book in the corrective light of changing conditions.

One reviewer pronounces me a dangerous cross between a bolshevist and a follower of Nietzsche—who, this chaste and indignant lady points out, "denied the existence of lasting moral principle, or right, in the conduct of life."

Well, I don't agree with that. To me here is a vast distinction between human custom and the moral law. The moral law is the important thing. Human custom is valid only so long as it conforms to this higher principle. That is why I so often higher principle. That is why I so often find that there is small room for human customs that interfere with moral law. A custom must produce in terms that are practicable and measurably good, or I am done with it, and so, in the end, is everybody else.

MY creed is a simple one. I think it is up to the human race to behave in a way that will intelligently make for the happiness and welfare of the greatest number of persons; that we are to use our common sense as individuals, in judging what con-duct, in any specific situation, will do that. I think the best morality is based on happy, expansive and generous living which reckons duly on the happiness of others, and takes pleasure in that happiness. I think such a way of living needs to be rational and not custom-bound or superstitious; and that it must be based on honest, courageous, independent thought rather than on secondhand maxims and prohibitions accepted uncritically because they are old or are alleged to be "in accord with the experience of the race." Some are, and some are not.

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A moral man is concerned, not with an abstract and arbitrary "moral law" that cares nothing for consequences and is therefore not moral, but rather with a concrete moral law which is measured by the results of his actions. If a conventionally moral act produces unhappiness he will consider whether it be truly moral and good or not; and he will be concerned not merely with the immediate consequences of such an act, but with its ultimate consequences. An act which brings immediate pleasure but may bring ultimate misery, is bad; while one which brings immediate pain but final pleasure is usually good.

THE moral man will use his best judgment to determine such probable consequences. What is harmful is sinful; what is harmless is right or at least permissible, and what works in the long run for good, and for a greater intensity of life—that is virtue. The only reasonable standard of value in conduct is the consequences for us and for others that lie implicit in our acts and in our thoughts. Whatever works evil is evil. Whatever produces good is good. And God requires of us, I believe, both thoughts of good will and acts of good results—as good, at least, as we can compass. Cut-to-pattern convention, you see, has small chance in company with such principles as these.

A truly moral man will place the emphasis in conduct on something other than the usual "thou shalt not." He will regard cruelty and unkindness and jealousy and malice and other similar forms of conduct and thought which are socially permissible as abominations in the sight of God, and will be inclined to be lenient with persons who sin because they love. It is not clear that some of the things we forbid are injurious or wrong. It is very clear, on the other hand, that many of the things we permit and applaud as right and good are really injurious and wrong to the last and lowest degree in the Seventh Circle of Hell. Our laws of social conduct are too often not concerned with right and wrong; and this is especially true with respect to sex. Marital jealousy, one of our pet social virtues, is an example of what I mean.

What many other persons would call the "moral law" I regard as not moral at all. In fact I think it often cruel, unjust, savage and ignoble. Take, for instance, the value we place on chastity in women. This is part of our "moral" law. It masquerades under all sorts of esthetic names. It is identified by poets with the "purity" of the lily. It implies that sex relations sully that purity. And then by a special magic it excepts married women from the general rule. They have had sex relations, but they are chaste and pure—even in a loveless marriage—all by virtue of a bit of magic called a wedding ceremony. On the other hand, some sinning sister, unmarried, who has committed the same act, in an ecstasy of love, is impure, polluted, tainted and what not. What all this means is simply that women are property, and that society scorns any woman who gives of the ultimate of her love irregularly, by branding her with a mark of shame and making her taboo. The "moral law!" Where under heaven is there a name to fit this thing?

What the ancient Jews really meant by the seventh commandment was: "Thou shalt not steal." And they referred to a particular kind of property—women. Why not say so, and admit that possessive jealousy and property rights are back of our traditional attitude in this matter?

When I say this I am by no means making myself an advocate of adultery. I am merely saying that our conception of what should be the relations of the sexes, particularly in marriage, will have to be revised and put upon a genuinely ethical basis

before we can have a right to call the thing moral. As it stands, I think our code of sex morality is Immorality with a big "I." It is a lie more immoral than all the infidelity ever committed, because it does more harm than all the infidelity ever committed.

When we call a woman "virtuous," do we mean that she is really virtuous? Not at all. We mean that she is presumably "chaste," by virtue of a marriage ceremony. We call her virtuous though she may be a liar, a gossip, a virago and a terror at home, without a virtue of mind or heart to commend her. I know many such. They are not to be compared in virtue with some wantons, and still less with hundreds of girls and women I know who are sweet and dear and good, though they have loved outside of wedlock.

outside of wedlock.

I have a letter from one reader saying:
"If you had denounced these evils you tell of, and even quoted now and then from the Bible to show how wrong it all was, it would have been all right."

would have been all right."

Don't I know it? Why, if I should denounce and bewail through all the pages of this magazine and demand in despairing tones what the world is coming to, and mention "our modern Sodom and Gomorrahs" often enough, the things I have related from some of my cases wouldn't raise a ripple of denunciation from the godly. They would eat it up and call for more.

This is a trick resorted to regularly by some of the clergy in this country. They announce sermons on lurid topics, in which sex will figure largely; and they give their conventional congregations a bigger kick than they could get out of the hottest plays on the New York stage. Sometimes they try the "men only" and "women only" hokum, and pack the sanctuary. They do this right in church and get away with it. How? Simply by denouncing hard enough and long enough. This saves the face of the proprieties. With that attended to, the sky is the limit.

The trouble with such brethren is that they do not possess the facts. But I dol And the trouble with me is that I don't present them behind a smoke-screen of sham denunciation.

One critic writes me that the Seventh Commandment is a full and complete answer to everything I have written. In my judgment it is nothing of the sort. These "sinners" who rebel and then get caught in the conventional toils have plenty to say for themselves when once you get under their skins. And I don't see why they should not have the floor and their day in court just as soon as the good people of this country—who are of course quite without sin, and who make the laws—get through doing all the talking. What the good people demand is that their side of the matter be presented in toto and ad nauseam, and that everything on the other side be suppressed or else smothered in a feather bed of Scriptural quotations.

If we could bring ourselves to think honestly about these matters we could make marriage a much more genuinely monogamous institution than it is. I don't call marriages in which the parties are restive and don't love each other, or in which they desire infidelities they don't commit, monogamous. Monogamy is in the heart if it is anywhere. I have even known it to exist in marriages that were physically polygamous. Monogamy is in the psychology of a marriage if it is anywhere. A merely technical monogamy reduces neither the number of divorce-courts nor the sum of domestic misery.

I scrutinize and question the authority of any custom to persist without frequently giving an account of itself, and submitting to revision when revision is necessary. Any

other plan is destructive to the very morality it professes to uphold. It is the "moral" people of this country who are undermining morality by their efforts to suppress every fact that they think might weaken their position. And I believe their day is short. What I am for is a genuine morality which will maintain a proper balance be-

tween the rights and just claims of individuals on the one hand, and the rights and just claims of society on the other. At present, especially in our sex conventions, we have nothing of the sort. Society claims everything; and there is no limit to its superstitious greed, avarice and fear.

I know a man who has a savage dog. If that animal broke loose, he would be a men-ace to the community. He would kill anyace to the community. He would kill any-one he could get at. He lunges at his steel chain and leather collar when a group of school-children pass within sight of his ken-This dog is savage merely because he is kept chained. It is the same with sex. I don't advocate turning this savage, longconfined force suddenly loose on the country, any more than I would advocate the sudden unleashing of that savage dog when a group of boys and girls were passing. Rather I advocate a system that will make such liberty gradually possible under rea-sonable and kind control. It can be done. Sex is a great spiritual force. But would you know it when you see the thing glowat you there in chains? I should think that anybody with a mind above mor-on capacity could see this distinction.

I am not for license, nor for an irresponsible promiscuity; but neither am I for the type of marriage that would bind people together without love and make a steel trap of wedlock. I am for decency, restraint, culture, real religion, and conduct based on the Golden Rule.

(Another of Judge Lindsey's remarkable articles will appear in the next, the March,

THE AMERICAN WOMAN IN PARIS

(Continued from page 79)

French are the most civilized, the most cultivated, and the life in Paris is the flower of their civilization. No one knows better than they the value of money, for example; but no other people know as well how to keep money in its place, as a means and not an end in life. They are realists about money, where the Americans by contrast seem romantic. They are realists equally about sex, about religion, about art and literature and sport and politics—about the basic facts of life and its civilized adornments. seem to be able to be intelligent about these things even when they are most enthusiastic. They are intelligent because they are truly educated, in the sense that their education has taught them how to think. And best of all, to my mind, it has taught them to express themselves.

I shall always remember with delight my own surprise and pleasure when I first escaped from the stupid amusements of the fashionable racing set in Paris to the dinnertable conversation of a Parisian woman who had the most interesting salon of her day. I was prepared to be awed and frightened by the guests whom I was to meet-great artists and writers and scientists whose fame overwhelmed me. I do not wish to give their names; it makes one sound like a tuft-hunter. I expected them to be as solemn hunter. as a debate in Congress, and I feared that I should be as out of place as if I were going to a meeting of the British cabinet under Gladstone.

They were all, without exception, charm-You could scarcely tell from their conversation which was the witty feuilletonist



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A beautiful booklet has been prepared telling the marvelous story of the I-ON-A-CO in detail, explaining its scientific principles, giving testimonials of many who have found health and happiness through its use. This booklet has opened to thousands of people a new short, delightful road to health. It may do the same for you.

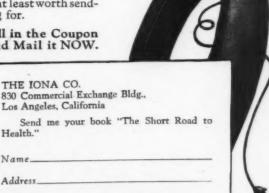
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and which the man of science. They all expressed themselves with equal felicity, with that grace of diction which is like a tradition of good manners among the French, and with the ability always to utter a profound thought lightly. I felt as if I heard conversation for the first time. I was as excited as if for the first time I drank wine. "So this," I thought, "is what a dinner can be! Life can be like this!"

As I got to know these men better, I found them almost all as simple and wise found them almost all as simple and wise as they were charming. Among them was Metchnikoff, for instance. He was then the head of the Pasteur Institute, a great scientist and a true philosopher, as you know if you have read his "Nature of Man." He lived, with dignity, on a salary that would not dress a New York shopgirl. He took man as artisate later and he would He took me as a patient, later, and he would walk through the streets to visit me, carrying under his arm a bottle of his Bulgarian bacillus wrapped in a newspaper; and the newspaper was the issue of the day, and he brought it to me, with true French thrift, so that I might have the news to read in my sickbed. Imagine the most famous and dis-tinguished doctor in New York saving his morning newspaper for a patient, wrapping it around a bottle of milk, and walking up Fifth Avenue to deliver it. No. That sort

of thing is only possible in Paris.

Only in Paris can such a man enjoy the respect and appreciation of rich and poor, of servants and tradesmen, of the milionaire and the aristocrat. "He is a true intellecand the aristocrat. "He is a true intellec-tual," they will say of him with pride. His poverty and his simplicity are accepted as natural to man of his superior unworldli-ness, and they are almost as proud of his achievements as a New York boy is of Babe Ruth's home runs.

It is the same way with their artists.

Let a peasant boy, like Millet, show some gift as a draftsman, and his parents and his neighbors and the priest and the public officials all conspire to assist and educate him, often at the expense of the community. They all have some appreciation of art, and they are all proud to have a boy from their district enrolled among the great men who have added to the artistic glories of France. He dedicates himself to his career like a young priest to his church, and when you meet him, as a famous painter in Paris, you find him devoted to his art like a medieval saint to his religion. He may be a peasant no longer. He may be the most witty and amusing dinner guest and talk as intellec-tually as Anatole France, but when he takes up his brushes, he is as absorbed and pains taking a workman as Anatole France with his pen, and he is likely to show the same wise simplicity in his life as Anatole France

It is this sense of sacred workmanship that makes the French the great artists of the modern world, whether they write books or paint pictures or design clothes or cook dinners. The clarity of their thinking is of a piece with the deftness of their technique, and the beauty of Paris is a designed and and the beauty of Paris is a designed and conscious beauty, as much a product of intelligence as the traditional wisdom with which they order their lives. There seems to me to be a sort of madness in the Anglo-Saxon that takes him to such a city, to dissipate and destroy himself among such people; and the American woman who is destroyed, perishes like a stupid barbarian coming to Rome in the Augustan age and choosing only the vices of a civilization that

had everything to offer him. (Another illuminating article by Mrs. Lydig will appear in the next, the March,

WE LIVE BUT ONCE

(Continued from page 87)

At the top of her prolonged cadenza she suddenly broke, hurled herself on her bed and sobbed and sobbed and sobbed.

Her husband's hands for all their memory could not be sure just what to do. went out to her, drew back, clenched, leaped up in the air, smote one another, clenched his head to keep it from blowing open. He began to pace the floor in a rough burlesque of her delicate frenzy. After all, he had as many women in his ancestry as she in hers. But he could not fight her with her weapons, and she did not know how to use his.

Out of sheer bafflement he stumbled upon the one sure defence against her. He fell into a chair and lighted a cigar for com-

panionship.

When she peered through her tear-blobbed lashes at him, she mistook his ineptitude for As an infant bullies its stolid obstinacy. parents with convulsions of noise, she let off another flurry of sobs. They made Fleming miserable, but inspired him to no action.

Poor Amy with her crude, repetitious, melodramatic assault on his sympathies and his common sense, grew less and less admir-able every moment. She simply revealed the shallowness and selfishness of her soul. Not once in all her mouthings had she even prated of anything unselfish. She had lashed him with old proverbs about duty and decency, but they were all of his duty to her— his selfishness, his faults, his evil desires. Never a word of any dereliction on her part. She celebrated herself, chanted her perfections, her sacrifices, put on the crown of thorns as a becoming hat and admired herself in it.

He grew grim as a surgeon sharpening his nives. Whatever the future might bring, this amputation was necessary. There was no living with her any longer. It would be

ruinous to both of them. For Amy's sake he must separate his existence from hers.

His hand kept going to his watch. It fell away. It was not the discreetest thing to do in an hour of tragedy. He knew how she hated that watch and that familiar husbandly habit of hunting for a timepiece, as an excuse for saying good-by! Almost frantic with the waste of time, he said:

"Amy, I've got to go to my office. like to settle this matter now. Will give me my freedom and take your own?"
"No!"

"I beg you."
"No!"

"Let's be reasonable and act like grownup people of the Twentieth Century 'No, I tell you. No, no, no, NO!"

"You wont divorce me?

"I certainly will not!"
"You know I can divorce you."
"Just try to."

"Are you really going to play dog in the manger?"

"And now he calls me a dog! I could divorce him for that. But I wont! I wont!! I wont!!!"

He sighed profoundly, "All right!" lifted himself to his feet and walked out.

AMY waited for him to come back. But he did not come. She heard the front door close and ran barefoot to the window. She saw him whirl out of the driveway in his car.

Amy knew her husband well enough to smile at his exit. Like looped curtains suddenly released, her muscles relaxed from their tension and fell limp. Only her eyes were alert. She watched the door as a patient cat keeps vigil over the crevice where a mouse is sure to reappear. His return was inevitable, and she could wait. What else

had she to do? She spent her life waiting for people to come and amuse her, or take her out or invite her out where amusement would be provided.

She thought she had done rather well today. Her audience had walked out on her as usual, but it always came back for more. So she basked in anticipation, her eyes lazy feline slits economizing their flames.

lazy feline slits economizing their flames.

And Blair, never realizing what an automaton he was,—thinking, indeed that he was a philosopher and a cavalier,—was tormented by his own remembered ferocity. He was not proud of his victory over that helpless little woman—or was it a victory? She kent the field, and he had run away.

She kept the field, and he had run away. Poor Amy! She did the best she could. Why blame a tallow dip for not being a lighthouse by the sea? Why blame a hick-ory-nut heart for not having the vast expansiveness of a Florence Nightingale heart? She was only a doll, and her tragedy only a doll's, but she was suffering all she could; and a giantess could not suffer more than that. His feet had already halted while he meditated return. He was already on the way back upstairs before his mind had resolved on the climb.

HEARING his footsteps, Amy smiled a moment, then pulled the drawstring that tightened her features, and assumed the mask of a martyr. She was a pitiably pretty spectacle as Blair's remorseful eyes rested on her lying there in anguish, deserted, forlorn and wan. He went near her and said haltingly:

"Amy, I'm sorry if I was brutal."

She did not answer. She could be silent.

He went on wretchedly:

"I'd do anything on earth to make you happy. But you're not happy with me. Why should you be? I'm not your kind. We're not getting anywhere—or we've got as far as we can go. You don't love me any more—if ever you did."

She made an effort to remain mute, but she had to say the all-too-easy: "You mean you don't love me."

To her surprise, he did not protest that he did. He tossed his duty aside as a mat-

ter of no importance.

"All right! Have it your own way. If ever I loved you, I don't now. I don't mind taking the blame. I get it everywhere I go. I live on it. But let's agree that, on account of my unloving disposition, our life is a failure. Whatever the reason may be, we haven't had any real life together for—for God knows how long. We've just been roommates—and not even that—just fellow-lodgers in the same boarding-house. It isn't honest. Why can't we part as good friends without bitterness?"

"I am to give you up so that you can go to Valerie Dangerfield, eh?"

"Have that your own way, too. I'd let you go in a minute if you came to me and said: 'Give me my freedom! I don't love you any more. I want to go to—to—well, Jimmy St. John, for instance."

With no suspicion at all, he had simply taken the name of the last man he had seen her with. If he had been watching her as he watched a witness, he would have seen how the random shot struck home.

He saw neither the shock of it nor her

ruick recovery. But it was a most unfortunate hit, for it reminded her that Jimmy St. John had walked out of her life the night before. And now her husband was walking out. And nobody else was walking in. That was the intolerable situation. She simply could not let everybody go; for she was one of those women to whom existence without some man to fasten on was inconceivable. The bare thought of a husbandless, loverless future drove her frantic. She flung off lassitude and flashed into a coil, her very fangs bared as she panted:

her very fangs bared as she panted:
"You dare mention me in connection with such an affair, and I'll—it shows how low



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you've fallen! You suspect everybody! You accuse me of being a—a—thing like your Dangerfield woman!"

"I haven't accused you of anything. I haven't suspected you of anything.'

And that was not so much of a compliment that it should assuage her ferocity of

terror. She raged on:
"You think that all women are as evil
as she is. You think it's a small matter to break up my life, toss me into the discard and run off with your—mistress!" "Stop—right there! Don't slander one

who-

"Oh, I mustn't mention her name! A faithful wife can't even refer to the sacred faithful wife can't even refer to the sacred white lily who has torn her husband away from her! Oh, no, no! She's so dainty, so pure, so—well, I'll tell you one thing, Blair Fleming, and you'd better mark my word! Valerie Dangerfield wont get you, and you wont get her! I'll ruin her. I'll haved her out of deem's coitety. I'll I'll. I'll. hound her out of decent society. I'll—I'll throw acid in her pretty face and then see how you like her—the nasty, vile, shameless III—III beast trying to ruin my home!"

While she ransacked her scant vocabulary for something fearful enough to express her rage, the husband's own wrath was coming up through all his being, with the rush of a scalding geyser. He held it back as best he could, but he was trembling with its

power as he said:

"Amy, I'll do a little warning of my own. I didn't want to hurt you. I suffered horribly at the thought of wounding you, for I thought of you as a tender little thing, selfish as a kitten, but no more vicious. You might have held me as a poor little kitten. I'd have let my heart break and my life go to pieces before I'd have fought But when you begin to revile Miss Dangerfield and to threaten me-when you say you're going to hold me in spite of all I've told you, when you turn into a rattle-snake and spit poison-why, I'd feel no more compunction about crushing you than I would any other rattlesnake that stood in my path. And now I tell you for the last time, I see you as you are. I've seen just how much heart you've got inside you, and I despise you! I'm through with you. If Valerie died today-if I'd never met her, I'd leave you just the same. I've left you now. You can have all I've got and all I can get. But you can't have me!"

She cowered so meekly under this blast

"Once more I ask you to release me peaceably and decently. Will you?"

She did not answer.

"Please! I beg you! For your own seels."

She did not answer. "Then I shall take what steps are neces-

PAUL HOVEY

There's a name you've never seen in the pages of this magazine, but you will see it soon. It will be at the beginning of one of the best stories you've ever read in your life, entitled:

"BLACK CHARLEY CLAY COMES HOME"

"Try it!" she laughed harshly, "and see what happens."

He stood a moment, paralyzed by the immemorial cowardice of a well-meaning man before a stubborn woman whose chief strength is her perfect weakness. Then he groaned: "Good-by, then!"

He went out again. She would have felt sure that he would be back again, if he had not closed the door with such a dreadful softness. It showed that he held himself in perfect control.

She was frightened. She felt very sorry for herself in a manless world. She began to weep softly, sincerely. If Blair had seen her then, he would have been drawn back to her most powerfully by her powerlessness.

Amy waited in an anxiety unknown in all eir quarrels. She heard the front door their quarrels. closed-softly. She ran barefoot to the window. She heard him swing back the doors of the garage. She heard the snort and sputter of the car. She saw it whirl out of the driveway. He did not look back.

Her tears pattered on her breast in a ten-der rain. Suddenly she felt that he was not going now to his office, as always before when it was his only refuge. He would be going to Valerie Dangerfield. Her tears stopped. Her soft eyes turned to agates. She thought of her husband now with

contempt as a duped fool, but she thought of Valerie Dangerfield with a certain respect as a she-devil whom it was her sacred duty to destroy by any method she might devise.

Chapter Twenty-one

HE farther and the faster Fleming drove, the less he liked himself in his new character, the less magnificent his denunciation of Amy seemed. At every corner he had to fight an urge to turn his car and race back to her with apologies for bullying so little a thing. How could she help being what she was? What a cad he was to fight the law in defense of some criminal weakling, and crush the sinless weakling in his own home!

He would have to see Valerie and tell her

that their dream was vain. thought of wounding Valerie's love gave him another wrench. His muscles now yearned to swing the car toward Fremont Place and Valerie.

The result of the contradictory tugs at his heart was a straight line for his office. There he found his secretary-another nice, helpless woman, and perfectly unmanageable. Clients were in his outer office with their own destinies awaiting his intervention.

He could save everybody, but himself he could not save. He nodded here and there and distributed curt good mornings. He ran the gantlet to his private office and sat down to wring his hands as helplessly as any of the women who were driving him mad. Miss Whitham came in with her note-

book and her sharpened pencils. He hated those pencils. They were always pricking him to action and decision in his most be-fuddled moments. He was so frenzied that to a superhuman heroism. amazed himself by daring to make a simple request of an employee:

"Miss Whitham, I should like a few moments alone for a private telephone conference

He had not quite attained the sublimity of honestly saying "conversation." added, to save Miss Whitham's feelings:

"Don't let any of my clients in till I ring, please.

Miss Whitham turned red, turned white, and fairly swooned out of the office. He could see that he had almost slain the sensitive creature. But what of it? He was in the business of slaughtering women this morning.

With a mounting audacity that dazed him,

he took up his telephone and called the home of Mrs. Pashley. When her suave butler answered with a "Hello!" of incredible deference, Fleming demanded:
"Is Miss Dangerfield in?"

"I'll inquire, sir. What name shall I say,

"Mr. Blair Fleming."

He was so autocratic that he almost added "by God!" to clinch it. The butler asked for just a moment, and the next thing Blair knew, Valerie's voice was pouring into his ear a "Hello!" of such music that it was not the same word, not the same language, the butler had used.
"Hello!" he answered, all his valor de-

parting in a gush of delight.

"How are you this morning?" Did she murmur "darling," or was it only his longing that was audible?

"I'm fine-er—that is, I'm a little the worse for wear. I had a terrific battle with —with you know."

"Good! And when is the funeral?"
"I don't know. But it's mine, whenever it is."

Instead of being horrified, she laughed: "You poor darling! You didn't stand a chance with her."

"I was very brutal-really!"

She laughed again:
"I can see you! You big men are simply ridiculous when those little women pick on

you. What did you tell her?"
"I told her I wanted my freedom. I begged her to let me go."
"And she laughed at you."

"No, she cried. At first she cried; then she stormed."

'And the crocodile tears won the day." "Well, the tears, maybe; but when she stormed, I told her she had to let me go."

And she refused, of course." "With the greatest enthusiasm." Just wait till I talk to her.'

"You? I wouldn't let you go near her for worlds. She dragged you into it the first thing. She says we're in love with each other. She threatens the most terrible things. She'll poison you—throw acid in your face—spread scandal—stop at nothing." Valerie ridiculed the menace:

She can bully you, but I'm not a great, strong, noble, generous man. I'm another woman and just as mean as she is. I'm not

afraid of her."
"Oh, in heaven's name—in God's name-keep away from her. She's vicious. She stop at nothing. Promise me you'll steer clear of her and let me fight it out. Prom-

ise me!" All right, I promise."

"You solemnly promise you'll keep out of her sight and not do anything till I give you the word?"

"I solemnly promise to love, honor and obey my lord and master."

THAT got him to laughing as she loved to hear him, and she felt his laughter well worth the broken pledge. For, of course, she had no intention of keeping a promise wrung from her by her lover's devotion to her and his terror lest harm befall her. That was what he would have called a promise "under duress." It was the most oppressive form of duress, too, in a woman's

And so, after an exchange of as many foolish nothings as he dared mumble and she dared return, they made a telephone parting and hung up their long-distance hard-rubber lips and ears.

Valerie hurried to her room to put on her armor for a joust with Amy. She made haste lest Amy escape from the house before she could join battle.

She made such haste that she was at Amy's front door soon after the unsuspect-Amy had finished a slow and meditative bath, and a breakfast, where she munched on



Do you know what the Half Moons really are? And that some women never have them at all?

Northam Warren, authority on the care of the nails, answers an important question on the manicure

can I do to have

HAT woman does not look with envy at the lovely almond-shaped nails of hermore soignee sister? Sigh once more for those rounded Half Moons and snowy tips?

What

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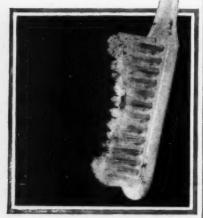
talented and unusually gifted French actress and a modiste of artistic ability as well, says: "Half Moons are the distin-guishing mark of beauty in well kept nails. Since I discovered Cutex it's no trouble at all to shape cuticle, revealing the Half Moons"



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plots and plans as brittle and unsatisfactory plots and plans as brittle and unsatisfactory as the toast that grew cold as she wondered just what to do. Amy had no more than decided to call on Mrs. Dorr and Claudine and tell them what a harpy Valerie Dangerfield had turned out to be, and had barely smoothed the last fold of her most plaintive dress, when the Filipino tapped

softly and giggled:
"Missy Daisyfiel."
Amy's heart knocked at her breast as if
it were a door. She distrusted what her ears had heard through the imitation oak.
"Who?" she called.

"Miss Daisyfiel downstairs see you."
"Oh!"

SHE stood as idle as Lot's wife turned to salt. She could not even think. The in-Salt. She could not even think. The in-conceivable had happened. The fiend that she was going to smoke out was right at The woman she was going to destroy for decoying her husband away from home, had taken possession of the home.

There was a small back-stairway for the servant, but it led into the kitchen and out at the back door. To flee from her own house and leave her enemy in it, was beyond even Amy's pusillanimity.

The impatient Filipino was patting on the

The impatient Filipino was patting on the door for instructions—and was doubtless perfectly audible to the invader as he persisted: "W'at you wiss I tell Missy Daisyfiel? You gone out? W'en you come back?" Amy snapped at him: "Tell her I'll be right down." She hated Valerie more than ever, but she was whipped already, besieged, outnumbered, outwitted, driven into what would have been called an ambush if the trap had not been spread so plainly before her.

been spread so plainly before her.

All she could do was to keep Valerie waiting as long as possible and make herself look as pretty as possible. She took off the dress that was appropriate to the rôle of a deserted wife to be played before two such unimportant friends as Claudine and Mrs. Dorr. But she could not decide just what was suitable to the rôle she must play before Valerie. She could not even decide on the rôle. Her one comfort was the feeling that she was infuriating Valerie by her delay.

She was really encouraging Valerie, for every moment of tardiness was an evidence of panic. And Valerie had need of encouragement. She had rushed to the fray with fine élan. Her car had crossed the intervening miles with the swoop of a charger. had come striding across the lawn to the door, pushed by the Filipino and sent her

name upstairs as a challenge.

If Amy had met her in the drawingroom, Valerie would have charged straight room, valerie would have charged straight over her. But Amy was upstairs, and Val-erie's audacity ebbed. It was not so noble to be here in the home of a poor woman with the intention of wrecking both it and Amy's delay baffled her.

Here under Amy's roof the sanctity of the home was more than a stupid superstition. The obligations to the guest were very real. Amy had not only sacred rights, but dangerous powers as well. She must be handled with care. Her very folly and her selfishness made her an ugly enemy. The nicest handling of her was necessary or the result would be disaster. And so much hung on the duel. All her happiness and Blair's could easily be ruined forever by one false

Valerie would have been glad to escape, if she had not given her name. She was in for it. She had mocked at Blair's cowardice; she must not imitate it. Still Amy de-layed and delayed, and Valerie's courage began to return. She bolstered her contempt for Amy by making fun of Amy's posses-sions. She had time to revel anew in the decorations and ridicule them to her heart's She wandered about, finding in

each elaborate futility, each cheap expensive-ness, some new justification of her scheme to rescue Fleming from this tinsel junk-Her conscience cleared. She vinced herself that this Philistine female had no rights.

Amy's final appearance confirmed her opinion, for Amy came in wearing her most gorgeous confection. It was in utter contrast with the irreducible minimum of Valerie's costume: a hat that was only a skullcap, a gown that was so simple a sheath as only the most exalted tailor could have fit-Amy knew that she was in the wrong-

est of all her wrong gowns.

This is a devastating feeling to any woman. Amy was simply shot to pieces. Valerie felt just right, and a woman is thrice-armed who hath her costume just. Valerie was in her most amiable humor. Spereeted Amy with the one of all the imagin-able beginnings that Amy had not prepared Valerie came forward as if she for upstairs. Valerie came forward as if she were the hostess and Amy the visitor, put out her hand, seized Amy's and wrung it heartily. With a false bravado that Amy was too disconcerted to realize, she began: "Prizefighters always shake hands before they square off; and it's a good idea. It was awfully kind of you to consent to fight with me at all, and I appreciate it. I love a good sport above all things.

"Men are foolish things, as you and I know. Your husband is probably the most

know. Your husband is probably the most foolish man on earth. That's why I love him and want to take him off your hands. He has told me all about you, your life to-gether, and your quarrel this morning. You were clever enough to guess at once that he and I are desperately in love with each other. I knew you would be. I never dreamed that we could conceal anything from your keen eyes, and I've always wanted to come straight to you, as woman to

to come straight to you, as woman to woman, and settle things sensibly. "But Blair, being a stupid man, can't imagine women being sensible about any-thing, and he went right ahead and started a fight with you. He lost it, of course, and made a ghastly mess of everything. You made a ghastly mess of everything. and I must straighten it out.

"When I told him that I was coming to see you, he was frightened to death. He made me solemnly promise I wouldn't. That's why I'm here."

UNDER this steady downpour Amy had sunk gradually to a chair. Every plan that she had collected had been knocked out of her head before it was due.

She had resolved to receive Miss Dangerfield standing and not invite her to be seated. Already Amy was in one chair and Valerie in another. And Valerie was doing all the

It was uncanny to watch her saying ap-palling things with incredible bluntness She was juggling ghastly scandals about Amy and herself and this home and its husband as if she were bandying tea-table slander about their best friends. She was discussing the approaching disruption of her host-ess' family as if she exposed some guest who had just left.

Amy wondered that the very roof did not fall in on the woman. Amy had been brought up properly and had trained herself in the venerable convention that the naked truth must always be hidden under as many blankets as possible—that the things every body knows and does are the things that nobody must ever admit knowing or doing, except in the vaguest way with the longest

Valerie's indiscretion had gone too far to be considered a breach of etiquette or even of morals. It was simply unearthly. Amy always discussed the solementies of life with a Sabbath timidity. She might break the laws and steal past the altars, but always the content of the laws and steal past the altars, but always always and steal past the altars, but always always and steal past the altars, but always alwa ways with a reverent sneakiness.

At length Valerie perceived that she was accomplishing nothing but the petrifaction of her opponent. Amy was not modern enough to endure the test of absolute can-She shifted her attack at once:

"Of course, in the good old days, I should have been considered an evil-tongued wanton; and you, as a good old-fashioned wife, would have ordered me out of the house.

But you're a modern of moderns. wouldn't wear an idea that was démodé any more than a last year's gown. So I've been frank with you as I shouldn't have dared to be with a less intelligent woman—or a less attractive woman.

"At that, even the most modern wife might object to giving up her husband if he were the only man on earth, or the only man in her train. But you—you—well, you wouldn't be a widow long, whatever happened to Blair—to your husband."

AMY looked at her with so blank a face that Valerie dared to let her have what she was thinking:

"Mr. Jimmy St. John, for instance. I imagine he'd be only too glad to step into Blair's shoes-or better yet, his slippers."

Valerie was puzzled to see how genuinely puzzled Amy was. She decided that Amy was only pretending innocence. She resented the ruse and broke through it:

"That day when we were all in the mountains-at Arrowhead Lake, you know.

Amy's stare was unchanged. Valerie went n: "Blair and I arrived before anyone was We went down to the lake to wait. awake. Blair fell asleep, but I didn't. We were in a kind of trellis or bower or something, when you and Mr. St. John strolled down along the water's edge and-"

The blood began to stir in Amy's chalky ce. Valerie whipped the color higher: "I saw you two playing hide-and-seek.

I heard him beg for a kiss and take a dozen for every one you granted."

Amy was scarlet, Valerie triumphant:
"If I hadn't seen that, I should probably never have dared to let myself love Blair as I do. I wasn't stealing your lover away, you had already taken another. I'm not blaming you. I'm putting all my cards on the table and telling you what's in your hand. You own Mr. St. John, and if I take Blair off your hands, you can marry him and live happily ever after. I'm really doing you as great a favor as I'm asking you to do me. Isn't that true?"

Then Valerie's assurance died instantly. For the color all ran out of Amy's face. Instead of the wrath, the amazement, the stupor, the guilt, the defiance that had appeared one after another in her features, there came a sudden dejection, a white pallor of humiliation and loneliness. She had reminded Amy of her complete poverty. She had lost both husband and lover.

Valerie's surprise was so swift that she had no time to check the cruelty of her own dismay:

"You don't mean to tell me that you've lost Jimmy St. John off the hook? He hasn't deserted you too, has he?"

Amy was at bay. If she said no, she confessed her guilt. If she said yes, she confessed her defeat. The guilt was the lesser shame of the two. She tossed her heavy head and answered with a desperate effront-

ery:
"Mr. St. John's affairs and mine are none

of yours."
"But does he—does he still love youpursue you—or whatever you call it?"
Amy shook out a sickly laugh:
"If you had seen him last night, you-

how dare you question me?"

VALERIE turned as pale as Amy. She V was as much afraid, for she understood now that Amy without Blair would be alone in the world. That would make her cling



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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

to him with all her might. And Blair could never be persuaded to tear her loose if she clung to him. No more prepared for this shock, than Amy had been for Valerie's abrupt incursion, it was Valerie's turn to be

She gulped a feeble "Migod!" and collapsed.

.Amy could hardly believe her eyes. She saw the terrible Miss Dangerfield staring at her stupidly, inert, with all her intelligence immobilized. The cowardice Amy felt before an attack always turned to effrontery before retreat, and her faculties rallied instantly. She took the upper hand with an insolence as high as Valerie's, if not as honest. Everything she said was false in spirit, but that was her way:

"I've listened to you, Miss Dangerfield—

and patiently—because you were a guest in my house. I hadn't invited you to call, my house. I hadn't invited you to call, but-well, I always say, a guest has some

"You come from a different kind of people than I do. I was brought up in the old-fashioned ways you make fun of. Where you come from, people don't think anything of trading husbands and wives and breaking the commandments. But I don't belong

with those kind of people.

"Neither does Mr. Fleming. He may have been kind of dazzled by having you throw yourself at his head, but I guess you flatter yourself when you think he's in love with

"He said something about feeling under some obligation to you, and of course, I don't know how far you've gone, but—well, a man has his own standards. And a good wife has to overlook a lot and forgive a lot

"You mustn't think, though, that all women are like yourself. Just because Mr. Just because Mr. St. John and I are good friends, you naturally suppose we're—well, more than that. You would be, I suppose. But Mr. St. John is a gentleman, and he knows that I'm a

You say you saw him-kiss me. you must have been dreaming, for such a You don't even pretend to have any witnesses, so your story isn't worth anything, anyway. It wouldn't go for a minute in a anyway. It wouldn't go for a minute court. I'm the wife of a lawyer and I know that something about courts. And I know that I could ruin you in any court in a minute.

"Seeing that you're brazen enough to come into my home right after breakfast and tell a faithful wife that you want her husband and he wants you, I think I could get all the evidence I need if I decided to divorce Mr. Fleming.

"Not that I'm going to decide to. Not that I'm going to let you walk in and walk out with my husband. You wont find me as easy as all that. You can't wreck the home I've built up, without a fight.

"I'm not saying what I'm going to do. But I want to warn you that if there is a divorce, it wont be any of these funny California divorces with a fake excuse. None of those imitation desertions or cruelty jokes for me! If I divorce my husband, I'll name you as co-respondent.

Amy had talked herself far off the course

Wallace Irwin

Has written for an early issue as lively a story as this magazine has ever pub-

lished, or you have ever read. It's about a man and a maid, of course,

but their adventure was really unique.

Remember the title:

she had planned. But she rather liked the grandeur of that climax. magnificent flinging of a gauntlet.

To her amazement, Valerie picked it up at

once and slapped her across the face with it.
"All right," she said, "I'll take that as a
promise. And since you've shown yourself to be such a lying little hypocrite and such a consummate rotter, let me promise you, Mrs. Fleming, that if you name anybody else as co-respondent, I'll kill you."

And with that she walked out. She did not even close the door. She left it open as if for Amy to walk out too.

Chapter Twenty-two

THERE was something so eloquent in the symbol of that ghastly open door that Amy rushed to it in a sudden terror and closed it, locked it—not so much to keep other invaders from coming in as to keep herself from being swept out.

She felt caught in the outward tide that was carrying so many wives away from their homes. There was an absolute mania for divorces. The divorces were almost outnumbering the marriages. The ridiculously impossible was happening. If the craze were not checked, people would be getting divorced before they got married. There wouldn't be any marriages-only remar-

Standing alone in her little castle, Amy felt that the world was too much for her. The flood of new ideas was climbing up about her. It would sweep her away. Her head was aswirl already. Her heart was wildly alarmed.

There was only one person to turn to. She ran to the telephone and with tremulous forefinger dialed Blair's number.

"My husband! I want my husband!"
What a reassuring word! What a glorious thing to have! No wonder that loose Dangerfield woman wanted one.

Blair's voice answered—his strong anxious pice: "Hello! This is Blair." voice:

She yammered at him in a childish panic: "Blair, you must come home at once! ease! Right away!" Please!

"But I'm busy! I'm in a conference!" "I don't care what you're in. You come home, I tell you. You'd better, or you'll be

"What's the matter? What's happened?"
"You come home! I tell you! I beg
u! This minute! Oh—oh—oh!"

She was sobbing as she blindly poked the receiver at the hook. The click of it choked off her wail and threw him into a panic greater than her own.

He left his client with a vague excuse, dashed across his office to his hat, and bolted.

Reaching his own curb, he ran to the house. Amy opened the door for him and closed it on him. He was astounded to find her alive—a trifle angered that she was not ill or murdered.

"What on earth's the matter?" he demanded.

To his final bewilderment, she threw her arms about him, lifted herself a-tiptoe, and dragged his head down, smothered him with kisses and babbled: "I love you! Don't leave I'm afraid! Love me again! Aad al-Oh, I'm so scared!"

Mays! Oh, I'm so scared!"

If she had been a child or a stranger, he would have found it impossible to rebuff such desperation. But somehow his arms could not encircle Amy. They hung inert. His lips could not return her kisses, nor find words. His brain could not even think.

He understood what it must mean to be smitten with a paralytic stroke.

(The next installment of Mr. Hughes' memorable novel is of special interest. Be sure to read it, in the forthcoming March

"A Week from Tuesday"

"I THINK I'LL GET MARRIED"

(Continued from page 69)

It would simply break my mother's heart if I wrote and told her I did not have a big Thanksgiving dinner and I always believe we only have our mother once and should do all in my power to make them happy. Anyway the studioes will not be working until after Christmas I guess.

Nov. 10: If that Pete does not stop asking me for a date I am going to report him to the manager. It is too bad if a girl cannot earn an honest living without having to be bothered by such as him. The casher is very nice. He has acted in several Tom Mix pictures and is takeing riding lessons Sunday mornings so as he can get to be a regular cowboy on the "lots." The girl in the rolls looks exactly like Laura LaPlante, which she says is the reason she could never get along in the "prefession" as a girl which looks like another which is a star never has a chance. It is so interesting to meet proffessionals and not people like what are around the studoes who are waiting to be let act. Everyone down at the cafeteria is really an actor or actoress except that Pete who you can see has no temperment.

Nov. 13: Another unlucky 13, and how true the old saying is that 13 is unlucky! Twice I have been decieved on the thirteenth of the month by a man. I mean by two different men, for I am not the kind of a girl which could be decieved by the same man twice. This morning in the paper there was a picture of that Pete only it was not Pete but Ben Ryan, one of the biggest box office attractions in the business. And the story said how he had been working in a cafetera to get local color for his next film which will be "The Bus Boy and the Princess." It was very exciting down at the cafeteria with all the customers wanting to know why we did not recognize Ben Ryan. Well it is perfectly easy to understand why we did not recognize him and unless he is a man about it all I will tell everyone why. If the next time I telephone him he will not come but send a message by his snippy valley he can not be disturbed, I will simply tell the world why we did not recognize him. There is nothing so furious as a woman scorned, like the saying is. I am getting good and tired of being mens mere plaything and being decieved all the time. If Ben Ryan were a man he would only respect me all the more for refusing his attentions when he was in the pies and being true to Avery.

But if he goes on not being disturbed I will tell everyone why he was not recognized

But if he goes on not being disturbed I will tell everyone why he was not recognized which is purely and merely because he did not wear his toopay! That lovely marceled hair of his is not his naturally and when a man will not keep "faith with his public" any better than that and besides decieves young girls, the world should know. Just to think that I missed getting ahead with my career or becoming the wife and pal of a man star purely because of a toopay!

Ben Hecht

The brilliant author of "The Lifer," which appears in this issue, has written another characteristically pungent story which is scheduled for early publication. Be sure to read—"The Little Blue Man"

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"All That I Am I Owe to Her"

"Two years ago I was so blue and discouraged that I didn't know which way to turn.

"Everything seemed to be going wrong. Bills were piling up and my small salary scarcely lasted from week to week. Worst of all, there was no prospect of my getting more money.

"Then one night I sat down in the parlor after supper and tried to find a way out. But I seemed to be up against a blank wall. 'It's no use,' I said to myself, 'I'm a failure now and I guess I'll always be a failure.'

"Mary saw what I was thinking and she put her hand on my shoulder in that quiet, inspiring way of hers.

"'Don't give up, Bob,' she said. 'You're just as smart as other men, but you haven't mastered some one line of work the way they have. That's the whole trouble . . . you're not trained. Why don't you take up the same kind of a course that Tom Barnett did? You know how it helped him!

"I saw that Mary was right, so I enrolled for a course with the International Correspondence Schools and studied in spare time. I thought it would be hard, but it wasn't. The lessons fascinated me, because I could see how they were helping me in my work.

"In four months I got my first raise in salary, and I've been going up ever since. We wouldn't have this house and the car and the money in the bank if Mary hadn't urged me to enroll with the I. C. S. just when she did."

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